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INSIDER PREVIEW

OS X MOUNTAIN LION

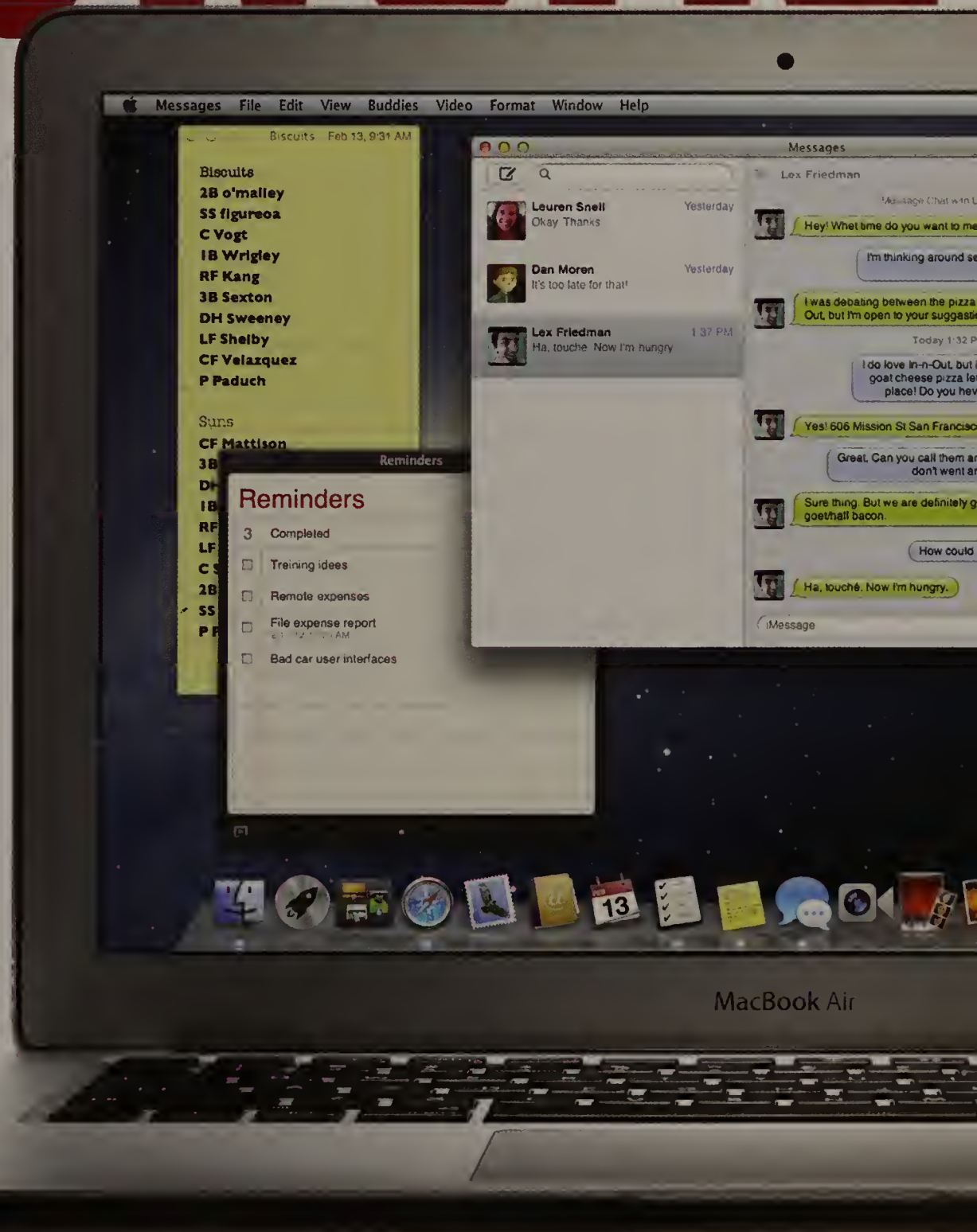
First Look at the
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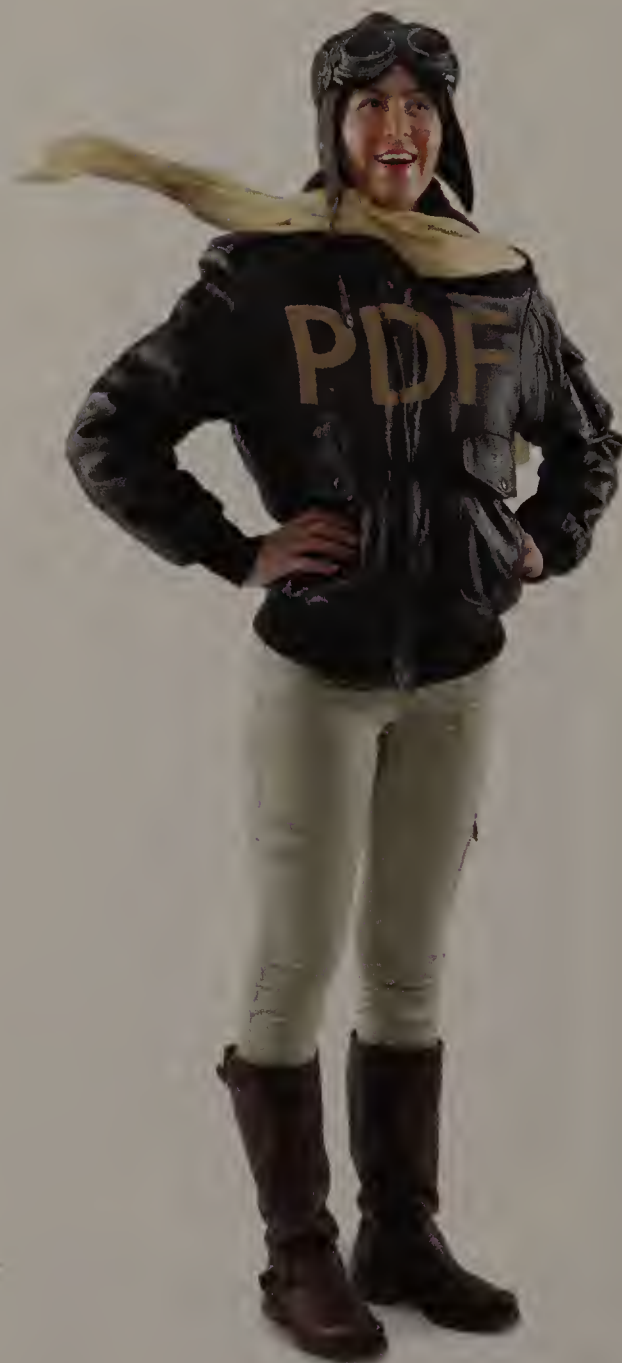
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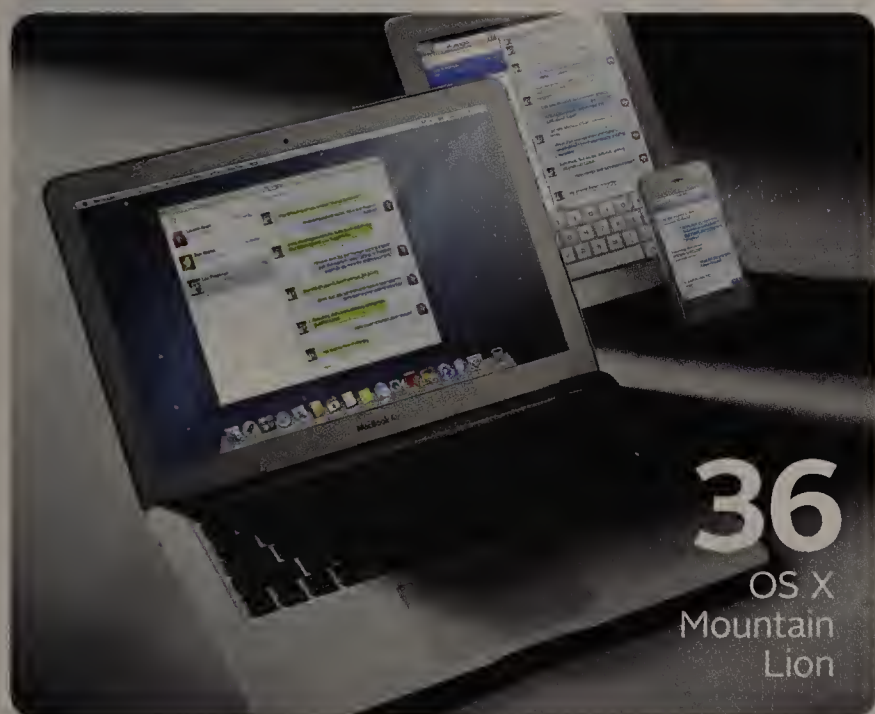
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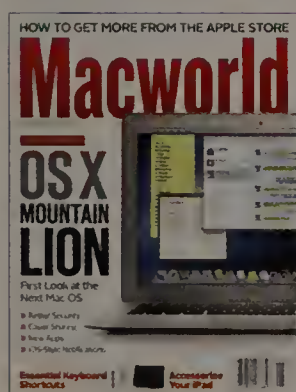
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Photograph by Peter Belanger

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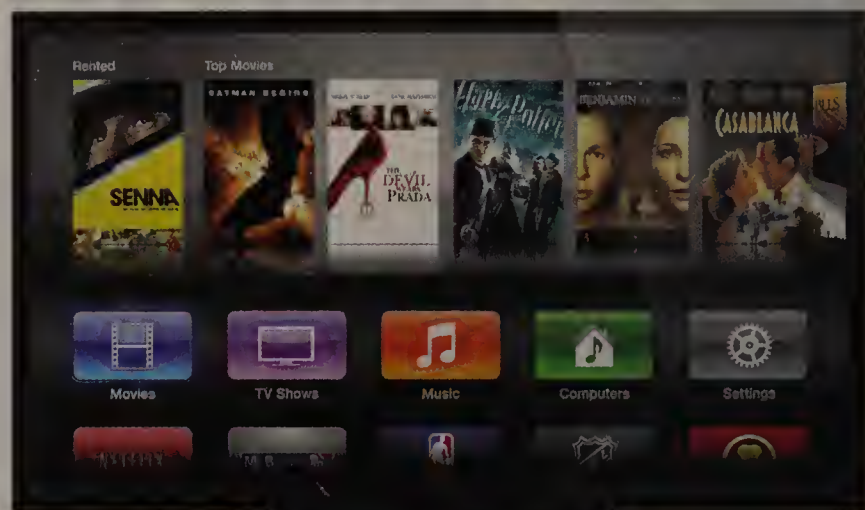
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Check out our latest podcasts, slideshows, and videos



Podcast: Apple TV Talk

Senior editors Christopher Breen and Dan Frakes share impressions and troubleshooting tips on Apple's updated set-top box (macworld.com/a/1166004).

We also recommend:

Video: Tips for Text on Your iPhone and iPad (macworld.com/a/1166119).

Podcast: A Week with the Third-Generation iPad (macworld.com/a/1165883).

Video: See Your Mac's Screen Remotely (macworld.com/a/1165891).

Video: How to Organize Files and Folders with Hazel (macworld.com/a/1166025).

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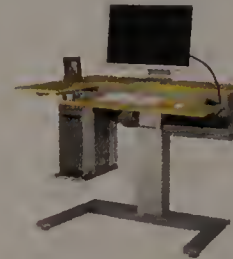
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Syncing Ship

iTunes has become a bloated, unwieldy mess, and Apple needs to fix it

When Apple introduced iTunes in 2001, it served one purpose: It was a music jukebox. But that was a long time ago.

These days, iTunes is simultaneously Apple's most important and most problematic product. It's a music and video player. It's a store where you buy music, videos, ringtones, and apps. And it's a syncing system, connecting the Mac to a range of Apple devices, from the iPad, iPhone, and iPod to the Apple TV.

Apple has packed almost everything relating to media and app management, purchasing, and playback into this single app. As a result, iTunes is now bursting at the seams. The app has become a complete mess and needs an overhaul.

Confused and Confusing

I use iTunes every day to listen to music on my Macs, and it works just fine. I don't have a problem with iTunes as a music player. My issues are with all the other junk that has been grafted onto it.

As a tool for syncing media and apps on my iOS devices, iTunes is inflexible and unreliable. I can't tell you how many times I've had to delete and then resync everything on one of those devices because iTunes got confused.

Recently I connected my wife's iPad to our Mac at home to add some videos for my kids to watch. That iPad had never been synced with that Mac before, because it was set up to use iCloud and the App Store. But the moment I plugged it in, iTunes attempted to sync its own collection of apps, which is not what I wanted. When I tried to abort the syncing process, iTunes offered me a choice I'd never seen before: To delete all the apps on the iPad, or to keep them and stop syncing. The second option was *exactly* what I wanted to do. So I chose it—and then watched in dismay as iTunes proceeded to delete all the apps on the iPad anyway.



As a tool for syncing media and apps, iTunes is inflexible and unreliable.

Given that all apps are available in the cloud now, I'm not sure why iTunes is so persistent about syncing them with devices. In fact, given Apple's aggressive moves with iTunes Match and iTunes in the Cloud, even Apple seems to realize that syncing media with a Mac or PC running iTunes is kind of a mess.

Rather than continue to patch a system that was wonky to begin with and has only gotten worse, it's time for Apple to rethink device syncing entirely. Right now, the company apparently intends to solve this issue by having every device you own automatically download everything. That's not a bad start, but users shouldn't have to pick between the cloud and their local computers—they should be able to move back and forth effortlessly. Adding a single movie to an iPad shouldn't take 25 minutes, with the risk of losing all your apps in the process.

iTunes is at its worst when it comes to managing apps. The interface is ridiculously slow. Your hard drive can get filled up with tens of gigabytes of iOS apps that could easily be downloaded

instead. Syncing apps frequently makes apps and folders disappear. The interface that shows where the app icons will appear is unstable and unreliable.

If Apple is going to truly embrace the cloud, it needs to change iTunes. The program should be simplified. It might be better off being split into separate apps, one devoted to syncing devices, another to media playback; perhaps the iTunes Store should be broken out separately, too, like the Mac App Store.

The iTunes we've come to know has had a good run, but it's now a crazy agglomeration of features. If someone were to design it today, it wouldn't look anything like it does now. As a portal to iOS devices and the iTunes Store, iTunes is too crucial for Apple to ignore.

Apple boldly replaces old hardware when necessary. It's time for the company to do the same with iTunes.

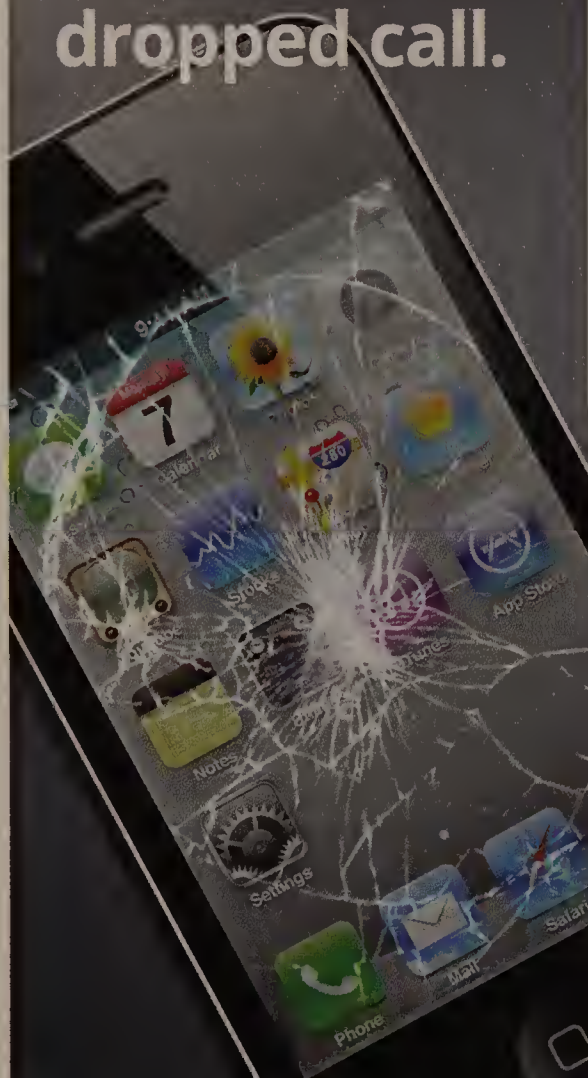
From the Editors' Desks

For the past nine years, I have been (with one or two exceptions) the sole face of *From the Editor's Desk*. Earlier this year, I took on some additional responsibilities at the company that publishes *Macworld*. As a result, I can't devote as much time to this column as I have in the past.

The good news is, *Macworld* has an entire staff of intelligent editors who have plenty of informed opinions about what's going on in the world of Apple. So beginning next month, this space will be shared by all of the editors here. I'm still around, so I expect I'll reappear in this space now and then, but I'm going to share it with my colleagues, too. I hope you'll give them the same attention and consideration that you have given me all these years.

Jason Snell is the editorial director for *Macworld*. Email him at jason_snell@macworld.com or follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/jsnell.

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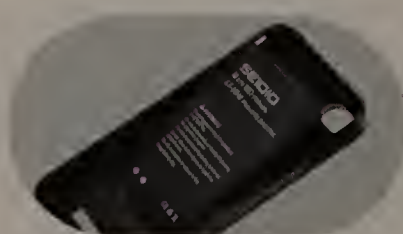
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It's a Mad, Mad, Mad Macworld

Readers reflect on their favorite iPad accessories, grumble over AT&T's throttling decisions for users with unlimited data, and wonder why we've phased out Snow Leopard tips in this age of Lion. (Answer: Sadly, we have only so many pages in our magazine!)

AT&T THROTTLES DOWN ON DATA SPEEDS

In Europe all "unlimited" data plans have speed limitations after reaching a threshold. To my knowledge nobody has complained about this. These speed limitations are noted in the contract—and though they're written in small characters, they aren't hidden away somewhere.

If AT&T said it will throttle speed after usage reaches a certain limit, I don't see what there is to sue about. If AT&T kept this hidden, then it was false advertising.

pakitt, via the Macworld.com forums

What I ponder is ... is the throttling of the top 5 percent really helping the network?



They keep saying it won't affect most people. Then how does it positively influence network use, if so few users are throttled? Data caps are a hindrance to service. What if they limited the number of landline calls one could receive in a month? Invest more and find more efficient ways to shore up the network.

Jasonmwa, via the Macworld.com forums

"Unlimited data" means that you will not be charged by the data packet. It doesn't say how fast that packet gets to you. If you disagree, why not grandfather data

FAVORITE IPAD ACCESSORIES

We asked, you answered.

@cbell199: For my iPad i use a Griffin Stylus for notes for class. I also use a Griffin guitar connector with Garageband, and Apple Keyboard.

@ewee: Only a @DODOsays case. Played w/ idea of a stylus, never followed up on it. Adding a keyboard made it more cumbersome than I liked.

@lrevje: I had a stylus, used it for one night. Also had a keyboard, hooked it up once. The only accessory I really need is the SmartCover.

For more on iPad accessories, see *iOS Central*, page 26.

speeds into grandfathered unlimited-data plans—meaning you'd see no increase in speed from your original plan as new technologies are introduced.

gregtk, via the Macworld.com forums

SNOWED OUT

Some of us cannot afford to buy the latest Mac every year. Could you have a few pages dedicated to tricks and information on the not-so-new OS systems? I bought a new computer last year with Snow Leopard and thought I'd be on the same system your magazine talks about, but then Lion came out, and now Mountain Lion will be out this year, and I will be two systems behind. Is there room in your magazine for me?

Dalene McIntire, via email

[You make an excellent point. We know that many users—and Macworld editors—stick with the old OS X. But we still need to shift our editorial focus quickly to the new OS whenever one comes out.

While many of our readers don't immediately upgrade, eventually almost all do. There's an urgency to covering the new OS; we have to explain its quirks as quickly as possible. We certainly don't disdain those who decide not to upgrade. But we only have so much editorial bandwidth.

When Mountain Lion comes out this summer, we will shift our focus to it. But we do hope you'll keep reading Macworld. For one thing, much of what we'll write will still be relevant for older systems. Also, there's

more to the Mac than OS X. If Mountain Lion isn't of interest, we hope that some of our other material will be.—Ed.]

CORRECTIONS

On page 48 of "12 Things Every iPhone and iPad User Should Know" (April 2012), we incorrectly grouped together photography features for both devices. The iPad does not have a lock-screen shortcut to the camera, nor does it ship with an LED flash.

In the May 2012 edition of *Spotlight*, we incorrectly attributed the photograph of the author. It was taken by Tom Upton.

All reader communications to Macworld—through mail, email, our social networking accounts, and our online forums—are presumed to be intended for publication. We reserve the right to edit them.

Why Apple Events Dominate the Spotlight

Apple creates a media circus when announcing a new product

BY LEX FRIEDMAN

When Apple unveiled the new iPad at a special press event back in March, the world watched. And that's nothing new; it seems every Apple event garners tremendous attention before it's announced, nonstop live coverage while it's happening, and endless analysis and punditry once it's over.

Isn't that something?

The Apple Event Life Cycle

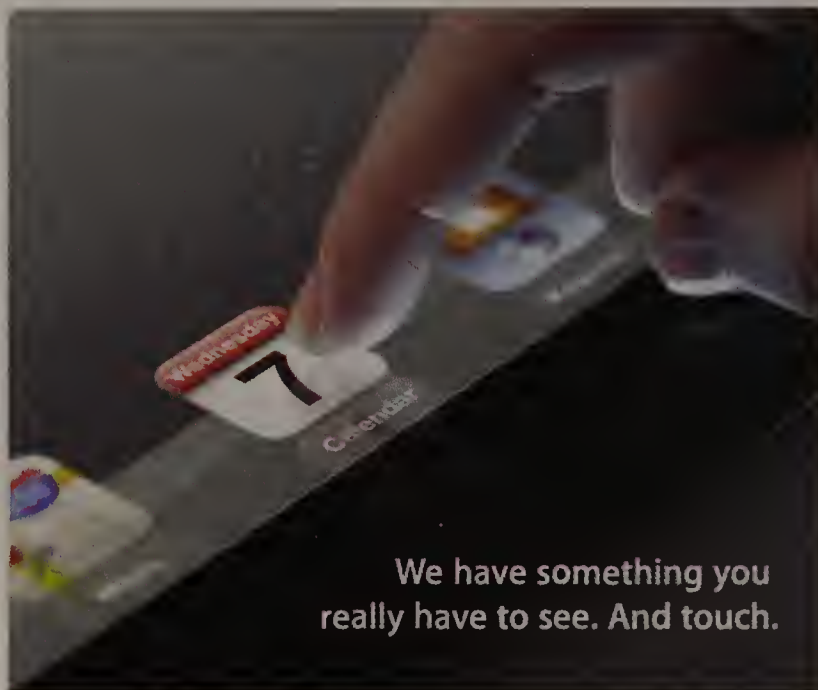
Apple events like March's iPad event have a life cycle all their own, and it's a lengthy one. For months, there are rumors about what Apple may or may not be working on. There are even rumors about when Apple will host its next special event. Once Apple announces an event, news agencies rush to report that fact—incredibly, even the confirmation of the event's date is considered newsworthy.

At some point, Apple emails invitations to chosen members of the technology press. Thus begins another round of mad scurrying to publish stories about the invitations. And then

Each Apple event is only as good as the products it unveils—and for the most part, those products have been very impressive.

the dissection of that invitation's hidden meaning begins.

This time, debate centered on whether Apple's invitation showcased an iPad without a Home button. In addition to studying Apple's invitation art pixel by pixel, of course, pundits analyze the text as well: In our own piece predicting what Apple might announce, my colleague



Please join us for an invitation-only event at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater in San Francisco on March 7 at 10:00 a.m. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. Please arrive early.

We have something you really have to see. And touch.

Dan Moren and I wondered whether the "And touch" line in Apple's invitation might imply that some sort of haptic feedback would appear, say, when you typed on the next iPad's virtual keyboard.

After the announcement of the event, the rumors stop, briefly—until Apple

actually hosts the heavily anticipated event, with sites (including *Macworld*) live-blogging the showcase for huge online audiences. Even major news networks cover Apple's announcements. And after the event, pundits start punditing again, weighing in on the positives and negatives of whatever the heck it is that Apple has pulled out of its virtual hat.

Start the Rumor Mill

Apple's invite to the March iPad event sparked a fury of speculation by the media, industry analysts, and Apple customers.

Owning the News Cycle

Apple's ability to dominate tech news before, during, and after its special events is mind-boggling and unique. What other company's special events get so much attention? The closest analogy I can think of is something like the annual State of the Union address. The press speculates on what the President will say, the President says something, and then the press talks about what the President said. It's a days-long story.

But Apple—as surprising as this may be—isn't the leader of the free world. That it captures so much media (and thus consumer) attention is exceptional.

Remember the Mobile World Congress? Don't feel guilty if you're not sure what that is. The event, hosted annually by the GSM Association in Barcelona, concluded in March. It's a massive mobile industry exhibition and

conference—and Apple doesn't participate. It's not coincidental that the four-day event attracts only a mere fraction of the mind and media share that a 90-minute Apple event generates. In skipping out on the Mobile World Congress, Apple doesn't harm itself a whit; it scored a week's worth of coverage by sending out invitations for an event taking place a week later.

How Apple Does It

Why do Apple's special events attract such excitement and such extensive coverage? Put simply: Apple has earned it. In general, the company—at least in the modern era, kicked off when Steve Jobs returned as CEO—is fairly stingy with how often it doles out these special events. Clearly Apple aims to have each one contain multiple “Wow” moments.

Remember that Apple didn't schedule a special event to announce Mountain Lion; the company briefed various tech journalists in private. It could have scheduled an event like 2010's “Back to the Mac” unveiling of Mac OS X Lion, and that surely would have scored the same degree of press coverage before, during, and after. But the less frequently Apple holds such events, the more special those events become. Clearly, there's no immediate risk of Apple Event Burnout, and choosing not to have a Mountain Lion event is another preventative measure.

By ensuring that each event is, to use a favorite word of Apple's, “magical,” the company keeps us coming back. It's not just about good marketing, good keynotes, and reality distortion: Apple continually uses its events to showcase truly amazing and innovative products. Each Apple event is only as good as the products it unveils—and for the most part, those products have been very impressive. Explaining why other companies can't re-create the hoopla that surrounds Apple's events is actually pretty simple: Other companies don't consistently create products as worthy of hoopla as Apple's.

Lex Friedman is a *Macworld* staff writer.

Get Digital Copies of Mac Manuals

Access to your Mac's documentation is just a few clicks away

BY ROMAN LOYOLA

HOW-TO I rarely need to check my Mac's manual. But when I want to find out something directly from Apple and I can't find what I'm looking for on Apple's website, I check my Mac's manual.

Manuals have a lot of good information—you might be surprised at what you find. For example, the manual for the Early 2009 MacBook Pro has a section called “Boost Your MacBook Pro,” with directions on how to upgrade the hard drive and RAM. The Mac manuals also have a helpful troubleshooting guide.

Digital copies of manuals are easy to access; you can keep them in Dropbox or another online storage service, so they're just an Internet connection away. However, not every company provides digital copies of its manuals.

Thankfully, Apple does provide them. In Lion, you can easily get a digital copy of your Mac's manual—all you need is an Internet connection. Here's how.

Step 1: About This Mac

Click the Apple menu on your Mac and select About This Mac, which provides a great deal of helpful information about your computer. If you've ever been asked a question such as “What version of the OS are you running?” you can find the answer in About This Mac.

When the About This Mac window opens, you see some basic information about your Mac's OS, processor, memory, and startup disk. Under that information is a More Info button. Click that button.

Step 2: Support

About This Mac then opens a new window. Across the top are six tabs. The default selected tab is Overview.

Click the Support tab at the top right of the window. The window displays two sections, Mac OS X Resources and Macintosh Resources. To get the manual for your Mac, click User Manual in the Macintosh Resources section.

Step 3: Save the PDF

Your Web browser launches and you see a PDF of the manual for your Mac.

You can save that PDF if you'd like. If you are using Safari, move the cursor to the bottom center of the page. A dark gray box appears. The two magnifying-glass icons (with plus and minus signs) zoom in and out on the page. Click the third icon, a loupe, to open the PDF in Preview; you can save the PDF from within that app. To save it to your Downloads folder, click the fourth icon (it shows an arrow pointing to a computer). If you use Chrome or Firefox, you can reveal a similar function bar by moving the cursor to the bottom of the page.

Read the Free Manual You can quickly access your Mac's manual through About This Mac.



Mac Pro Users Clamor for Hardware Upgrade

Does Apple's high-end workstation have a future?

BY AGAM SHAH

Ardent users are clamoring for quicker upgrades to Apple's Mac Pro, while an unknown timetable for new hardware in the high-end desktop has raised concerns about the company's commitment to professional users.

Apple last upgraded the Mac Pro in July 2010. Mac Pro users now want the models upgraded to Intel's recently announced Xeon E5-2600 chips to keep up with the increased horsepower required for tasks like video editing.

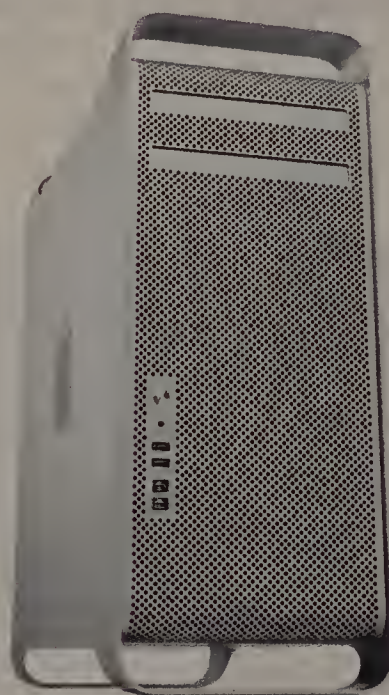
The long wait for a Mac Pro upgrade has raised doubts about Apple's interest in supporting its high-end workstation. Apple has not announced plans for a new Mac Pro; the company does not comment on future products, a company spokeswoman said.

Creative professionals widely use Mac Pros for multimedia creation and editing. These users value the Mac Pro's flexibility in terms of allowing hardware upgrades—they can add more storage and swap in new internal components such as graphics cards.

Users also want an upgrade of the Mac Pro for Thunderbolt, which will provide expansion capabilities for peripherals such as external storage devices and monitors. Thunderbolt is already available in Mac desktops and laptops and supports the DisplayPort protocol for displays and PCI Express 2.0 for peripherals.

The Mac Pro will remain an important product in Apple's high-end computing lineup, predicts Peter M. Fine, who runs the consulting firm FinePeter Consulting in New York. He recommends Mac Pros to clients who need high-end machines or require expansion slots.

"I think it is essential that Apple adds any new chip architecture to the Mac Pro in order to keep it in the upper echelon," Fine says.



Neglected Tower It has been nearly two years since Apple updated the Mac Pro with new processors and storage options.

Apple's lax approach to Mac Pro updates has opened an avenue for PC makers like Dell and Hewlett-Packard to compete in the workstation market, says Alex Herrera, a senior analyst at Jon Peddie Research (JPR).

Taking advantage of the uncertainty surrounding Mac Pro upgrades, Dell earlier this month sponsored a discussion on how to switch from Final Cut Pro on a Mac to Adobe Creative Suite 5.5 on a Windows workstation. Final Cut Pro is Mac-only, while Avid and Adobe tools work on both Windows and the Mac OS, so users can use them on either platform.

Apple bristles at the notion of comparing Mac Pros to PC workstations, says Herrera. JPR this week issued workstation shipment numbers for last year's fourth quarter, but did not include Apple's numbers. Herrera estimates that the numbers for Mac Pros are likely in the same ballpark as those for HP workstations, which had a 41.3 percent fourth-quarter market share, and for Dell machines, which held a 33.4 percent share.



Apple Announces Dividend, Share Buyback

BY DAN MOREN

Apple answered the question on many analysts' and investors' minds—namely, what the company planned to do with its almost \$100 billion in cash. Later this year, Apple will begin paying out a dividend and will start buying back shares.

The dividend program, which will begin in the fourth quarter of its 2012 fiscal year, will see payments of \$2.65 per share to shareholders—pending an official declaration from the company's board of directors.

In addition, the company will start repurchasing shares ultimately worth \$10 billion in its 2013 fiscal year, which starts on September 30. Apple expects the process to take around three years, and says that the intention behind the program is "neutralizing the impact of dilution from future employee equity grants and employee stock purchase programs."

According to Apple CEO Tim Cook, the buyback and dividend programs won't harm the company's bottom line. "Even with these investments, we can maintain a war chest for strategic opportunities and have plenty of cash to run our business," he said in a statement published on Apple's website.

CFO Peter Oppenheimer said that the company has been "very disciplined" with its stewardship of the cash.

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On-the-road doesn't mean out-of-pocket when it comes to office resources like scanning paperwork for sharing or to file electronically. Just plug-in USB power and scan business cards directly to contact lists. Press one button to scan paperwork directly to email, searchable PDF, JPEG, or to applications like Word and Excel®. You can even scan to Evernote® or Google Docs™ and retrieve your paperwork from just about anywhere. The ScanSnap S1100 helps you spend less time on paperwork so you can spend more time chasing down the next big thing.

The reviews are in. Check out ScanSnap and see how we rate in 3 important areas. Visit <http://us.fujitsu.com/macworld>

**FUJITSU**



Apple to Shut Down iWork.com

BY LEX FRIEDMAN

Apple has announced that the iWork.com public beta will close its virtual doors on July 31, 2012.

The free online service for syncing and sharing iWork (Pages, Numbers, and Keynote) documents debuted back in 2009. However, in a post-iCloud world, Apple has decided to permanently shutter the service.

There are two likely reasons Apple is shutting down the service: The first—and the one that Apple highlighted in an email to iWork.com users—is the launch of iCloud, which lets you store documents, music, photos, and more, syncing them wirelessly and automatically between your devices. Because you can share iWork documents via iCloud, iWork.com has become a bit redundant.

The second reason Apple is probably happy to be ending the iWork.com experiment is the simple fact that the service, while not terrible, was never all that good, either. You couldn't use it for Google Docs-style collaboration, and it didn't work seamlessly and transparently like Dropbox. Managing files with the service was a clunky back-and-forth process, and few are likely to miss it.

Writes Apple, "As of July 31, 2012, you will no longer be able to access your documents on the iWork.com site or view them on the Web. We recommend that you sign in to iWork.com before July 31, 2012, and download all your documents to your computer." For detailed instructions on how to save a copy of your documents on your computer, read the support article at macworld.com/7741.

Quicken 2007 and Lion Play Nice for \$15

BY SERENITY CALDWELL

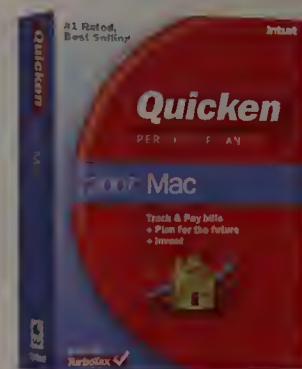
Waiting to make the jump to OS X Lion or Mountain Lion because of incompatible finance software? Wait no more. Intuit has released a new, Intel-compatible version of Quicken 2007.

The software costs \$15 for a download or a shipped software CD. Though Intuit is suggesting that new customers purchase Quicken Essentials for Mac, they can also opt for this Lion-compatible version of Quicken 2007.

This version can open data files from Quicken 2005 through 2007, as well as files from Quicken

Essentials. Stalwart users of Quicken 2007 who attempted to move their old Quicken files

to Quicken Essentials will find joy in how the revamped 2007 handles those files—it simply opens them. Essentials, in contrast, had to convert earlier Quicken files, stripping out potentially important information in the process. Intuit has an FAQ on the Web that covers the ins and outs of opening files created in prior programs. You can find the FAQ at macworld.com/7742.




Macs: Current Lineup

PRODUCT	SPECS	RATING	PRICE	DISPLAY	SPEED-MARK 7 ^a	FIND CODE ^b
DESKTOP						
iMac 	Intel Core i5/2.5GHz (quad-core)	★★★★	\$1199	21.5 inches	211	7197
	Intel Core i5/2.7GHz (quad-core)	★★★★	\$1499	21.5 inches	229	7198
	Intel Core i5/2.7GHz (quad-core)	★★★★	\$1699	27 inches	225	7199
	Intel Core i5/3.1GHz (quad-core)	★★★★	\$1999	27 inches	241	7200
Mac Mini 	Intel Core i5/2.3GHz	★★★★	\$599	not included	132	7429
	Intel Core i5/2.5GHz	★★★★	\$799	not included	161	7430
Mac Pro 	Intel Xeon/2.8GHz (quad-core)	★★★★	\$2499	not included	219	6458
	Intel Xeon/2.4GHz (eight-core)	★★★★	\$3499	not included	235	6459
	Intel Xeon/2.66GHz (12-core)	★★★★	\$4999	not included	n/a ^c	6460
PORTABLE						
MacBook Air 	Intel Core i5/1.6GHz, 64GB	★★★★★	\$999	11 inches	146	7425
	Intel Core i5/1.6GHz, 128GB	★★★★★	\$1199	11 inches	152	7426
	Intel Core i5/1.7GHz, 128GB	★★★★½	\$1299	13 inches	166	7427
	Intel Core i5/1.7GHz, 256GB	★★★★½	\$1599	13 inches	162	7428
MacBook Pro 	Intel Core i5/2.4GHz (dual-core)	★★★★	\$1199	13 inches	146	7532
	Intel Core i7/2.8GHz (dual-core)	★★★★½	\$1499	13 inches	164	7533
	Intel Core i7/2.2GHz (quad-core)	★★★★	\$1799	15 inches	190	7534
	Intel Core i7/2.4GHz (quad-core)	★★★★	\$2199	15 inches	219	7535
	Intel Core i7/2.4GHz (quad-core)	★★★★	\$2499	17 inches	216	7536

n/a = not available. ^a Speedmark 7 is Macworld Lab's standard test tool for benchmarking systems running Mac OS X 10.7 (Lion). For more information on Speedmark testing, go to macworld.com/7487. ^b In a browser's address field, typing in a find code after macworld.com/ takes you to a product's review or overview. ^c This system has not yet been assigned a Speedmark score.






The new Folio | Made with natural fiber



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Fibre Collection

boooq 



MAC GEMS

Discover Great, Low-Cost
Mac Products **By Dan Frakes**

FILE HANDLER

Hazel 3.0

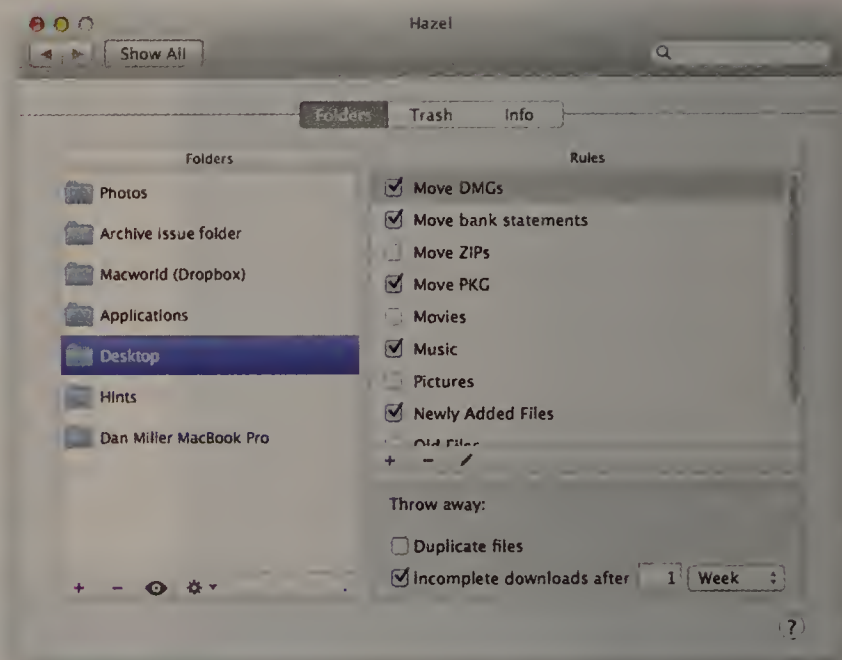
★★★★½; \$25; NOODLESOFT; WWW.NOODLESOFT.COM

Despite the influence of iOS on OS X, we still drag and drop files from one folder to another, and we still assiduously follow our own file-naming conventions—which explains why Hazel is so useful. This utility monitors folders on your Mac for predefined events—adding or modifying a file, for example. When particular events take place, Hazel automatically initiates actions that you've defined, such as moving the file to another folder, renaming it, or changing its label.

You configure Hazel 3 using its System Preferences pane. On the left is a list of the folders Hazel monitors; on the right is a list of the rules you've defined for the selected folder. Add a folder, and you can create Mail-like rules for it, each with conditions and actions. The conditions can include Name, Kind, Date Added, and many more. (You can also add your own file or folder attributes, and you can specify custom conditions via AppleScript or shell scripts.) Next you choose an operator for each condition: Is, Contains, Is Less Than, and the like. Then

you define the value(s) for matching the attribute and operator. An example of a complete condition is Date Added Is Today. You can easily reorder conditions by dragging them up or down in the list.

You then specify the actions Hazel performs when conditions are met. Actions can vary from the basic (Move, Rename, Set Color Label) to the not-so-basic (Run AppleScript, Run Automator Workflow, Run Shell Script). Actions added since we last reviewed Hazel let you import photos into Aperture or synchronize folders, and new options help Hazel handle duplicate files.



Hazel can also rename files using Spotlight-style tokens.

Sometimes it takes a bit of trial and error to get Hazel to do exactly what you want. But if you invest the up-front time, you'll get a neater, better organized drive, with little or no further effort required.

—DAN MILLER

EASY-TO-USE VPN

Cloak 0.9.20.8

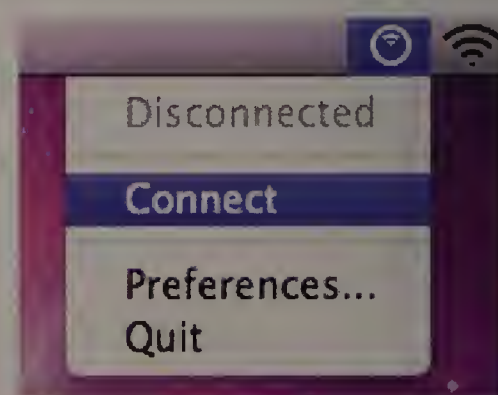
★★★★½; FREE; BOURGEOIS BITS; GETCLOAK.COM

Many public Wi-Fi networks are anything but secure—they're prime targets for hackers and identity thieves. A virtual private network (VPN) encrypts Internet traffic, helping to keep those do-no-gooders at bay. If your company doesn't provide a VPN, Cloak is a simple solution that doesn't require you to fiddle with System Preferences and obscure settings.

Cloak's systemwide menu lets you manually connect and disconnect from

the service's SSL or TLS servers, but the utility's standout feature is that it watches your Wi-Fi activity; whenever it notices you've joined a network that doesn't require a password, it activates your VPN.

The Cloak utility is free; the Cloak service—which provides the actual VPN—is free for up to 1GB of data or two hours of usage per month. The company also offers no-time-limit plans for 20GB (\$8) and 50GB (\$15) of monthly data.



I'd like better documentation and the capability to whitelist or blacklist particular Wi-Fi networks. But if you're in the market for a no-hassle VPN service for your Mac, I highly recommend Cloak.—DAVID CHARTIER

WRITING APP

WriteRoom 3.1

🍎🍏🍎🍏🍎🍏; \$10; HOG BAY SOFTWARE; WWW.HOGBAYSOFTWARE.COM

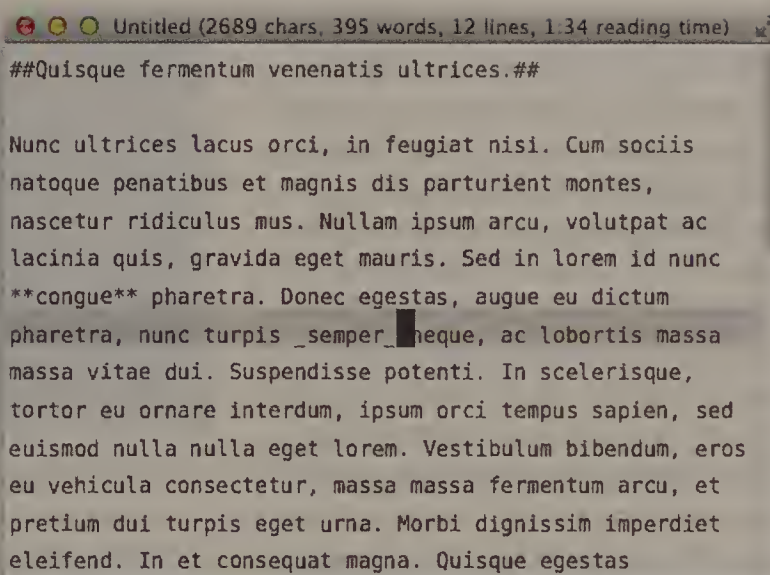
Among the many distraction-free Mac text editors available, WriteRoom stands out by offering a relative abundance of options for configuring the writing environment. Like other focused-writing apps, WriteRoom offers a basic writing view—in this case, a light-gray background with black, sans serif text, and no toolbars or buttons. But you can change the font, font size, text justification, and line wrap, as well as the number of characters per line. You can also toggle features such as typewriter scrolling (which keeps the line you're editing in the middle of the window), line highlighting, and viewing invisible characters.

You can also apply themes, which are combinations of fonts, colors, and backgrounds. A few are included, and you can download others from the WriteRoom website or create your own. WriteRoom

also includes a Lion-optimized full-screen mode to complete the distraction-free environment (oddly, this mode changes the basic theme to white text on dark gray).

You can create and edit documents in either plain text or Rich Text Format. The capability to style text and view it with styling applied (rather than with style tags) makes

WriteRoom a bit more flexible than some similar programs. WriteRoom also provides document statistics—word, line, and page count; reading time; and more—and it syncs with the iOS version of the program via



Dropbox. If you want a minimalist tool for writing, WriteRoom is likely to have all the features you need, letting you personalize your work environment or just write.

—KIRK MCELHEARN

EBOOK READER

Bookle 1.0.4

🍎🍏🍎🍏🍎🍏; \$10; STAIRWAYS SOFTWARE; WWW.STAIRWAYS.COM

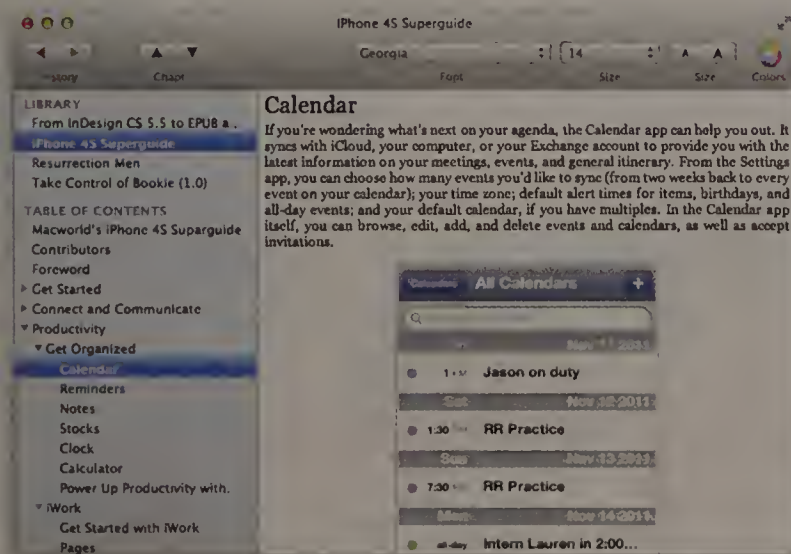
It's easy to read an ePub-format document on your iPad or iPhone, but doing so on the Mac has proved more difficult. Bookle aims to make such reading easier by providing users with a way to read and organize their ebooks. Bookle supports the ePub

standard used by iBooks on iOS devices and by the Nook, though it doesn't support files encumbered with digital rights management (DRM).

The app is divided into two panes, allowing you to see, on the left, a list of your books and the chapter titles for the currently selected book; the currently selected book is displayed on the right. You open a book—and simultaneously add it to Bookle's library—by dragging the book onto the app's Dock icon or by choosing File ► Open. Bookle makes a duplicate of the

book in its library, providing easy access to it in the future. The app also saves your place in each respective book you open.

Underneath the library list, the app displays any chapters and sections within the current book; you can jump to any of those by clicking. While you're reading a chapter, Bookle displays it as a scrolling page; to advance, tap the spacebar or click Bookle's chapter advance button on the toolbar. You can also switch between chapters using a two-finger horizontal swipe. You can customize a book's font face, font size, and background color. There's currently no way to search or add annotations, but Bookle otherwise works well.—SERENITY CALDWELL



Check out the **Mac Gems** blog at macworld.com/macgems.

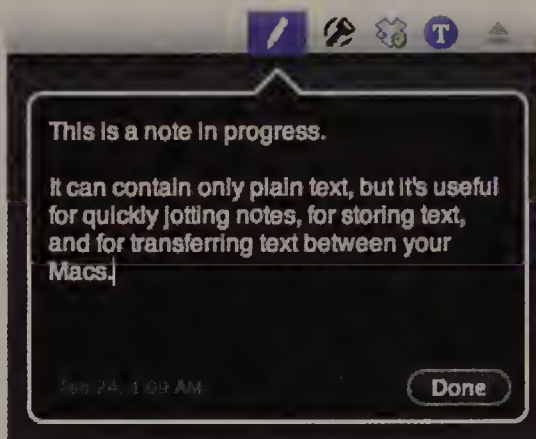
SYNCED NOTES

Scrawl 1.1.1

📱📱📱: \$2; PAD SOFTWARE; ALLENDUNAHOO.COM

Scrawl is a simple note-taking tool that syncs your notes between your Macs using Apple's iCloud service. Click Scrawl's pencil icon in your menu bar, and a small list of notes appears, floating over your other applications. Click the plus-sign button (+) to create a new note, and then type or paste your (text-only) content. Double-click an existing note to edit it. Scrawl uses Lion's Auto Save feature to save any changes you make, and it syncs those changes to any other Mac or user account configured with the same iCloud account—you've always got the same notes everywhere.

Scrawl supports an unlimited number of notes, and a search field lets you quickly search the contents of all your notes. Scrawl puts new notes at the top of



the list, although the app's preferences let you invert this order. Unfortunately, there's no option to sort notes alphabetically or by modification date and time, although you can manually drag notes up and down in the list to reorder them. You can also change the window size, as well as whether the semitransparent window

blurs whatever is underneath it or shows it clearly.

Besides storing traditional notes, Scrawl is also useful for temporarily storing text you want to use later, and if you don't use a text-expansion or -clipping utility, you can turn to Scrawl to store frequently used bits of text. It's also handy that when you're viewing a note, you can see the date and time it was last modified.

Scrawl is quite limited, and even some of its features (such as keyboard shortcuts) aren't obvious. I'd also like to be able to drag Scrawl's popover window off the menu bar to temporarily view it or work with it while working in another app. But it's one of the first note-taking apps that takes advantage of iCloud, and it's simple and easy to use.

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for iPad, iPhone, & iPod touch

PROTECTIVE CASE STAND

*Introducing All New
Accessories for*



The New iPad



www.macally.com Enhancing your digital life

MENU-BAR REVEALER

AccessMenuBarApps 2.1

FREE; ORTISOFT; MACWORLD.COM/7740

If you're running many apps and utilities with menu-bar icons, and especially if you have a small display, you know that application menus often end up obscuring many of those icons. AccessMenuBarApps is a simple utility with a single tiny menu. When you switch to AccessMenuBarApps, all those icons have room to breathe—and to be seen.

Unlike similar utilities in this genre, AccessMenuBarApps offers a number of ways to activate it in addition to the Dock and the ⌘-Tab application switcher. For starters, you can configure a keyboard shortcut. But more convenient are two gestures. The first is to bump the pointer

against the top edge of your screen twice in quick succession. This sounds a bit odd, but it works fine in practice—you just bump-bump quickly against the top of the screen, your menu-bar icons are uncovered, and the pointer is right there, ready to click an icon. With the second gesture, you bump the pointer against the top edge of the screen, and then keep pushing it up; AccessMenuBarApps activates after you've pushed up a certain distance (this is configurable in the app's preferences). You can also choose whether these gestures work across the entire menu bar or just across a specific section.

AccessMenuBarApps offers two features to help you get the hang of using it: The utility can provide sound effects whenever you bump or push against the top of the screen, and it can display visual feedback, in the form of a purple bar along the top of the screen, whenever the pointer touches that edge. Once you get used to using AccessMenuBarApps, you can disable either or both of these options. Thanks to these features, AccessMenuBarApps feels less like a one-menu app that you switch to in order to see all your menu-bar icons, and more like a nifty utility that gives you a number of ways to view your full menu bar.



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DISCOUNT COUPON: MW-612 FOR FREE ACCESSORY GIFT

Macworld **HOT STUFF**

What We're Raving
about This Month

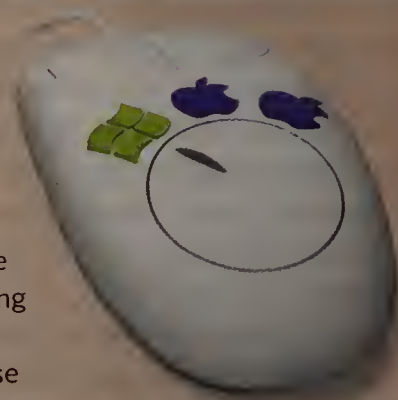


Avira Free Mac Security

Avira's free antivirus and malware-detection program is available for both consumers and businesses. The software can perform scheduled scans of your Mac, and all scans occur in the background so you can continue to use your Mac. You can create different scan profiles that inspect specific files and folders, or you can scan your whole Mac. Avira updates itself automatically so that it can catch the latest virus and malware threats. The included Avira Management Console lets you use the software on a server to provide protection to networked clients. The software avoids any unnecessary complexity, offering a straightforward one-touch interface that scans your Mac and gets rid of infected files. Avira requires OS X 10.6 (Snow Leopard) or 10.7 (Lion) and is available in both English and German (www.avira.com).—ROMAN LOYOLA

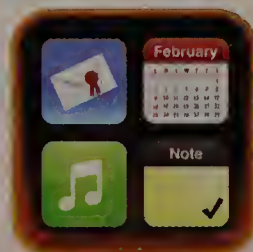
ShareMouse 1.0

Bartels Media's ShareMouse utility allows you to control up to 26 Macs and Windows PCs in the same room from a single keyboard and mouse. Each computer must have a display; to switch to a different computer, you press a hotkey and move the cursor to the edge of the screen, and you keep moving until the cursor jumps to the other display. Each computer you want to control must have ShareMouse installed, and software licenses are \$25 each. Volume discounts for 10 or more licenses are available (www.keyboard-and-mouse-sharing.com).—ROMAN LOYOLA



Pimp Your Screen

Apalon's \$1 app lets you customize your desktop with custom images and wallpapers created by a team of professional designers. Available wallpapers include photos of sandy beaches, kittens, abstract designs, and other options, in seven different categories: Abstract, Cartoon, Holidays, Sci-Fi, Animals, Sport, and Nature. You can also save your favorites for quick access, and the app regularly updates its selections with new content. You can preview your background image, and once you've chosen a wallpaper, you can share your desktop look via email or Twitter (www.apalon.com).—KARISSA BELL



Thunderbolt SSD

Elgato is entering the storage market with a solid-state drive (SSD) designed for use with Macs equipped with a high-speed Thunderbolt connector. The SSD is capable of reading data at a rate of 270 megabytes per second—a Thunderbolt channel, based on the specification, can provide up to 10 gbps of data throughput. The SSD has only one Thunderbolt port, which means that if you have multiple Thunderbolt devices, the Elgato drive must be the last device in a daisy chain. The 120GB version is \$430, and the 240GB model is \$700 (www.elgato.com).—ROMAN LOYOLA



12-PORT USB HUB

Some of us have so many USB devices—iPhones, iPads, iPods, cameras, printers, thumb drives, and more—that even a traditional USB hub with four or six ports isn't enough. Satechi offers a solution with its \$40 12-Port USB Hub. At just 8 inches long, 1.25 inches wide, and 1 inch thick, the hub offers a dozen powered USB 2.0 ports, along with a short, built-in cable for connecting it to your Mac. (A 3-foot extension cable is included.) The included power adapter ensures that your devices get enough power, and a unique design lets you quickly disable half or all ports by flipping simple switches (www.satechi.net).—DAN FRANKS



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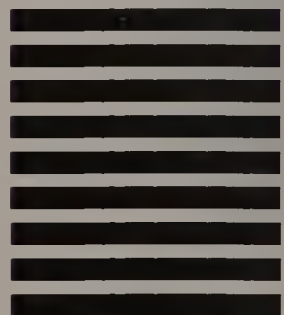
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Accessorize Your iPad

We help you find the best cases, films, stands, and keyboards for Apple's new tablet

BY DAN FRAKES

If you're the proud owner of a brand-new iPad, here's some good news for you. Because the third-generation version of Apple's tablet is nearly identical to the iPad 2, the market is already flush with compatible accessories. But that also means there are so many options that you may not know where to start.

Not to worry. We've combed through the vast expanse of iPad accessories to come up with some recommendations for equipping your new tablet.

Cases

A good case can keep your iPad safe wherever you go, protecting the tablet from accidental scrapes and drops during use. Some cases even include built-in stands to make it easier to watch videos or view photos hands-free. But beyond those basics, cases vary widely.

One thing to keep in mind: The new iPad is the same height and width as, but slightly thicker than, the iPad 2. This means that while most iPad 2 cases will fit the new iPad, those that are

Because the third-generation iPad is nearly identical to the iPad 2, the market is already flush with compatible accessories.

especially snug—so much so that the additional 0.03 inch of thickness would make a difference—may not fit. So when buying such a case, make sure the manufacturer states that it really does fit the newest iPad.

Apple's own Smart Cover (macworld.com/7055) remains a great choice if you don't need full-body protection (or if

you're open to buying a separate cover for the back of the iPad). It protects the iPad's screen, works with the tablet's magnetic sleep/wake feature, and folds up to double as a typing or viewing stand.

Shells and skins generally cover the back and sides of your iPad, but not the screen. A sleeve is a padded pouch—

sometimes with a rigid, screen-protecting insert—that protects your iPad inside another bag, such as a backpack, briefcase, or messenger bag. Folio-style cases offer all-over, stylish protection for your iPad, but flip open for easy access to the screen. An iPad-specific bag or pack lets you carry your iPad along with your other gear, and you can use it to tote your

daily stuff even when you aren't carrying your iPad with you. A carrying pack lets you carry more than just your iPad—such as a Bluetooth keyboard and some accessories—in a compact package.

Cases We Recommend Be.ez LA Robe Allure (\$30; www.be-ez.com); Cygnett Lavish Earth (\$50; us.cygnett.com); Incase Travel Kit Plus (\$60; goincase.com); Marware MicroShell Case (\$35; www.marware.com); Portenzo BookCase (\$60; shop.portenzo.com); STM Skinny (\$40; www.stmbags.com); Tom Bihn Ristretto (\$125; www.tombihn.com); WaterField Designs iPad Slip Case and iPad Smart Case (\$29 and \$59, respectively; www.sfbags.com); WaterField Designs iPad Wallet (\$79 and up; www.sfbags.com).

Screen-Protection Films

The iPad's screen is surprisingly scratch resistant. But some people still worry



Stand Delivers If you plan on using your iPad when you're out and about, the Compass from Twelve South is a great portable stand.

enough to want some additional protection, while others prefer an antiglare coating. Screen films attempt to address both concerns without affecting the sensitivity of the iPad's Multi-Touch surface. Unfortunately, many films are difficult to apply, and some make glare or fingerprints worse.

We like the iVisor AG from Moshi for its antiglare finish and easy application process, while Power Support's Crystal Film is among the clearest and toughest of the traditional films.

Films We Recommend Moshi iVisor AG (\$30; www.moshimonde.com); Power Support Crystal Film (\$33; www.powersupportusa.com).

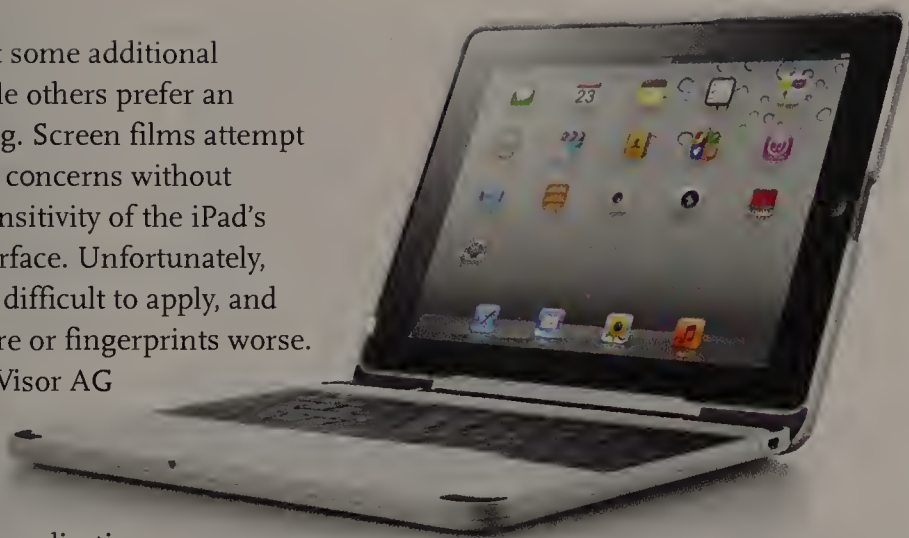
Stands

While we usually think of holding our iPads in our hands as we use them, there are plenty of times—while watching video, viewing photo slideshows, or using an external keyboard, for example—when we'd prefer to prop up the tablet and view it hands-free. If your iPad's case doesn't include a stand, or if it doesn't let you view the iPad in both portrait and landscape orientation, a dedicated stand is a convenient accessory to have on hand. The Compass and Xpo are great portable options; the @Rest, iRest, and Stump Stand are ideal for a home or an office.

Stands We Recommend Gogo Stump Stand (\$25; www.stumpstore.com); Griffin Technology Xpo (\$30; store.griffintechology.com); Heckler Design @Rest (\$49; hecklerdesign.com); Rain Design iRest (\$50; www.raindesigninc.com); Twelve South Compass (\$40; twelvesouth.com).

Keyboards

If you use an iPad for serious work that includes text input, a real keyboard can make things go much faster. The iPad supports almost any Bluetooth keyboard, but there are dozens made specifically for use with the iPad that include iPad-specific function keys and even integrated iPad cases.



Just in Case Clamcase's case-keyboard combos are the best option for combining typing with protection.

Folio-case keyboards are the most common, integrating a keyboard into a folio-style case. They're convenient, but most use small, cramped keyboards, and older offerings may not fit the new iPad perfectly. Clamshell keyboards place your iPad inside a hard-plastic case that unfolds like a laptop. These tend to be bulky, with similarly cramped keyboards, and can make it difficult to use your iPad as a tablet when you're not typing text, but they offer lots of protection. Keyboard shells integrate a keyboard into a rigid shell that protects the front or back of the iPad while it's in transit. When you're ready to type, you pop the iPad out of the shell, prop it up, and start typing. The keys on these shells are usually small but decent.

Case-Keyboards We Recommend Adonit Writer Plus (\$100 to \$110; adonit.net); Clamcase (several models at \$149; clamcase.com); Zagg ZaggFolio (\$100; www.zagg.com).

Stand-alone keyboards have to be carried separately and usually require a separate stand. However, most provide full-size, high-quality keys in a standard layout—and when you don't need the keyboard, you can leave it behind.

Stand-alone Keyboards We Recommend Apple Wireless Keyboard (\$69; apple.com); Genius LuxePad 9000 Ultra-thin Bluetooth Keyboard (\$60; geniusnet.com); Logitech Tablet Keyboard (\$70; www.logitech.com); Targus Bluetooth Wireless Keyboard (\$64; www.targus.com).

New iPad Debuts with Record Sales

BY LEX FRIEDMAN

March's iPad update may have been a modest one in terms of introducing new features to the tablet. But consumers didn't care: They snapped up the third-generation iPad in record numbers. Apple says that it sold 3 million third-generation iPads in the weekend after its March 16 release.

Compare that to the 2010 release of the original iPad, which took 28 days just to hit the 1 million sales mark. It would be 80 days before the first-generation iPad hit the 3 million mark. (Of course, that first iPad was a U.S.-only launch; the third-generation iPad debuted in ten countries.)

There's another recent iOS device we can look to for comparison's sake—the iPhone 4S. The opening weekend for last year's smartphone update saw sales of more than 4 million. But keep in mind that was the first update to Apple's smartphone line in 16 months. The third-generation iPad arrived about a year after the iPad 2. In other words, the iPhone 4S arrived to a lot of pent-up demand, with Apple even acknowledging that consumers seemed to be holding off on purchasing iPhones in the summer of 2011 in anticipation of a new release.

Three Days: 3 Million Third-Gen iPads Sold



AT&T Details Data-Throttling Policy

Go over 3GB, and the carrier will slow down your data speed

BY DAN MOREN

We now have some idea as to just how limited an unlimited data plan can be, thanks to AT&T. The carrier said last summer that it would throttle the data throughput of its heaviest users. In March, AT&T published a Web page (macworld.com/7731) that lays out precisely whom the policy affects.

AT&T will now send a text message to customers with unlimited 3G data plans warning them when their data usage approaches 3GB within a single billing cycle. If they go over 3GB, the company reduces their data speeds for the remainder of the cycle, though it doesn't say by how much. Once a new billing cycle begins, speeds return to normal.

Customers using the carrier's 4G LTE network will only see their speeds dialed down once they hit 5GB.

AT&T says that throttling affects only the top 5 percent of its customers and that the measures are the result of the rapid increase in wireless data traffic; by AT&T's figures, the number of smartphones has skyrocketed from 7 million in 2006 to 39.4 million in 2011, increasing wireless data traffic by 20,000 percent. Streaming HD movies account for much of that traffic; AT&T estimates they gobble up

306MB an hour, compared to roughly 120MB for one hour of standard video.

Users can check their current month's data usage by dialing ***data#** on their mobile phone or via AT&T's iPhone app, myAT&T (macworld.com/7732); they can also access previous months' usage at their AT&T account online or in the app.

Critics have derided the throttling as a stunt by AT&T to win support for its since-abandoned plan to take over T-Mobile and gain increased network capacity; at least one customer has taken the carrier to court and won. However, this practice is becoming fairly common: Verizon also throttles data for heavy users of its grandfathered unlimited data plans. Sprint is the only U.S. iPhone carrier that offers unlimited data plans to new customers.

AT&T has allowed many iPhone owners to hold onto the unlimited plans—albeit without the ability to tether other devices over their 3G connection. Those customers argue that they have paid for unlimited data, and that means no throttling. AT&T would probably prefer that those users switch to a tiered plan, and while that may be in part to control data usage across the network, the carrier clearly stands to gain from any resulting overage charges.

One Hour of Data Consumption



Source: AT&T

At Long Last, Readability App Arrives for iOS

BY JOEL MATHIS

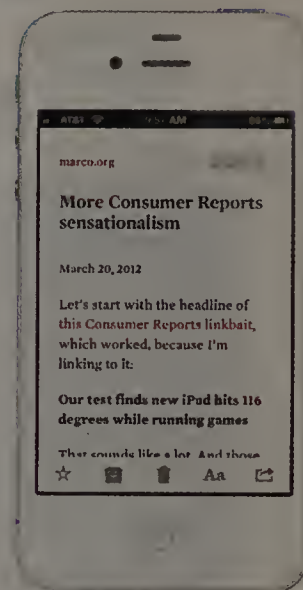
A year after Apple rejected its initial offering, the Readability service for reading Web articles has released an app for the iPhone and iPad.

Like its Web-based namesake, the iOS version of Readability (macworld.com/7733) lets readers

save Web articles and view them in a stripped-down format. When you see an article you want to read in Readability's built-in browser, a tap of the app's Read Now button creates that stripped-down article; tapping Read Later adds the article to your reading list. You can also save articles from your desktop browser to your iOS device with the help of a bookmarklet.

Apple rejected Readability's first attempt at an iOS version because the service tried to create a subscription model in which publishers and writers would get a cut of its revenues—and that violated Apple's subscription rules. The approved app doesn't provide an in-app subscription option.

In the year since then, Apple has gotten busy and duplicated some of the app's features within iOS 5.0. The native Safari browser on the iPad and iPhone now lets you save stories to a Reading List for later viewing, and also includes a Reader feature that offers a Readability-style clutter-free view of text. Readability maintains an advantage, though, in that its saved items remain accessible when you have no network connection.



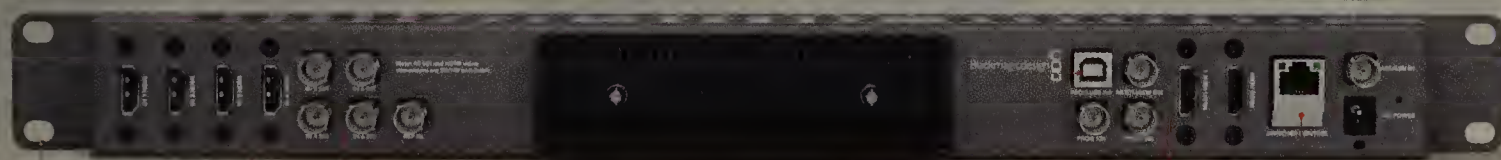
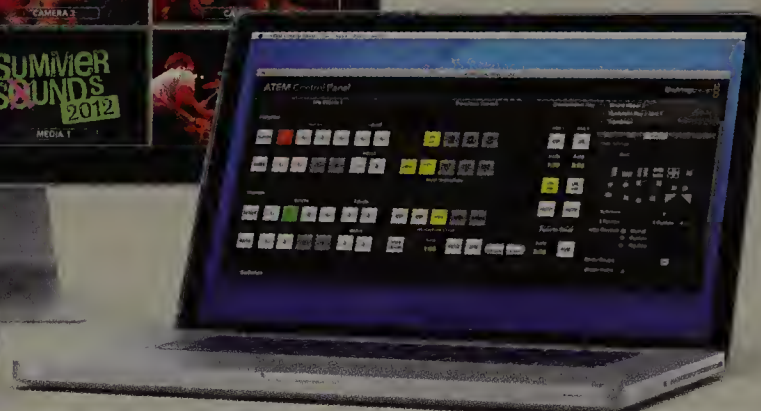
Blackmagicdesign



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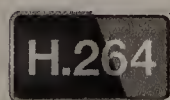
ATEM Television Studio operates as a professional M/E style switcher, so you can take your skills into any broadcast TV station! You get the most creative solution for live switching, with cut, mix, wipe, dip and more!

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Incredible Features

Only ATEM includes upstream chroma key for green and blue screen shooting. You also get pattern, shaped and linear keying, 2 downstream keyers, 2 built in media players and more! The built in multi view allows all cameras, preview and program to be viewed on a single SDI or HDMI monitor or television, so ATEM is perfect for portable location use! Now you can cover any live event, anywhere!



More Connections and H.264

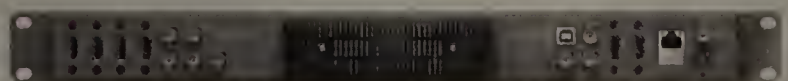
ATEM Television Studio includes loads of SDI and HDMI connections for professional SDI cameras or HDMI consumer cameras! All inputs feature re-sync so you can plug in anything! You also get SDI and HDMI outputs, plus built in H.264 encoding for generating files for the internet, iPhone, iPad and more! Imagine live production direct to H.264 QuickTime files for instant viewing!



Built to Perform

ATEM uses a familiar M/E style of operation so you get an instantly familiar workflow that's fast and easy to use. ATEM includes a software based control panel for Mac and Windows! If you need a hardware control panel then simply add the ATEM 1 M/E Broadcast Panel for a true broadcast grade solution. Thousands of ATEM switchers are used today for live broadcast events such as sports, music festivals, drama, reality TV and much more!

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Alligator Helps Disney Make Its Mark in Mobile

Where's My Water? is the App Store's 25 billionth download

BY PHILIP MICHAELS

Disney's *Where's My Water?* (macworld.com/7737) may have made history as the app that pushed the iOS App Store past the 25 billion download mark in March. But the physics puzzle game for the iPhone and iPad is significant to the entertainment giant for another reason: It's the first mobile game from Disney to feature an original character. Earlier iOS efforts involved either movie tie-ins or games Disney bought from other developers.

Bart Decrem, Disney Mobile's senior vice president and general manager, credits the development team's focus on gameplay for the popularity of this game, in which you use your finger to direct water past obstacles and into the pipes of a shower-loving alligator named Swampy. "We told the team to build just the best experience you can," Decrem says.

Where's My Water? has seen a steady stream of updates since its September release—the game now features more than 200 puzzles. A 12-episode Web series is in the works as well. Meanwhile, Disney has set its sights on a much larger opportunity in the mobile



market, which some analysts believe will grow to 1 billion smartphones by 2013. "For a generation of guests at Disney, [a smartphone] is their first screen," Decrem says. "They don't have a computer at home and they may not have a TV. [Mobile] is a massive opportunity to reach people."

SPOTLIGHT ON IPHONE APPS

MotionX Sleep

The iPhone is a device that usually keeps us *from* sleeping, with late-night email and Twitter activity. But *MotionX Sleep* (macworld.com/7728), a \$1 app from MotionX, goes against the grain by trying to help you *get* some shut-eye. The app uses the motion sensors in your iPhone to track your sleep, and offers weeklong and monthlong analytics to help you determine if you're reaching your sleep goals. It also works as a pedometer, tracking your movements to determine your activity levels, and sounding a "Get Active" alert if it determines you've been sitting still too long.—JOEL MATHIS



What's New at the App Store

Byword Brings Its Way with Words to iOS

B Writers who enjoy working with the Markdown language can now turn to *Byword* (macworld.com/7729), an iOS version of the Mac text editor. Metaclassy's \$3 mobile version, optimized for both the iPhone and the iPad, only works with plain-text formats, but it also syncs with Dropbox and iCloud, letting users move documents between their Macs and mobile devices. Users can also print documents directly from their iOS devices using AirPrint.—JOEL MATHIS

Camera+ Improves Sharing, Bulk Editing

The 3.0 update to *Camera+* (macworld.com/7576) introduces what developer Tap Tap Tap calls "dramatically improved" sharing functions—users can now share photos via Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr. The \$1 app also features bulk importing for bringing images in from an iOS device's photo library for editing, and users can now lock in the focus and exposure of *Camera+*'s camera separately.—JOEL MATHIS

Frameographer Makes Stop-Motion Movies

Frameographer (macworld.com/7730), a \$3 app from Studio Neat, lets users produce their own stop-motion or time-lapse videos on the iPhone 4 and 4S, as well as on fourth- and fifth-generation models of the iPod touch. The app captures a series of still images and plays them back at a certain speed to create videos. It can capture and export movies in 720p high-definition format; you can adjust the frames per second of a video shot and add frames to an existing project. *Frameographer* also offers manual and automatic shutter settings.—JOEL MATHIS

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APP GUIDE


Software for Your iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad

GarageBand 1.2

MUSIC We've sung the praises of GarageBand for iOS before (February 2012), and the latest update keeps making beautiful music. Chief among the changes is the ability to delete, move, and adjust notes, just as you can in the Mac version. Another smart instrument—Smart Strings—joins the mix. A Tracks Merge feature packs in far more tracks, and it's easier to share songs. And the Jam Session feature, which lets four people play and record together, makes GarageBand something to enjoy with others.—**CHRISTOPHER BREEN**
iPhone/iPad | ; \$5; Apple




Filmic Pro 2.5.2

VIDEO Filmic Pro aims to give you as much manual control as possible over your iPhone's video-shooting capabilities, creating an experience similar to what you'd get using professional-grade equipment. Three different shooting modes—Full Frame, Single Reticle, and Double Reticle—allow you to control exposure and focus in different ways. Other advanced features let you control everything from frame rates to resolutions. Don't be intimidated if you're an amateur moviemaker: Despite Filmic Pro's complex array of features, it has an easy-to-use interface that will appeal to all types of videophiles.—**KARISSA BELL**
iPhone | ; \$4; Cinegenix




Draw Something 1.4.1

GAMES A Pictionary-style game that's more collaborative than competitive, Draw Something is a lot of fun. You draw a suggested object on your iOS device; your partner, playing on a separate device, has to guess what that object is as the drawing appears stroke by stroke. You're not trying to stump the other person; a correct guess keeps the game going. The game has flaws—in particular, limited drawing tools and a stunted vocabulary—but the often humorous drawings you and your friends exchange make Draw Something a blast to play.—**LEX FRIEDMAN**
iPhone/iPad | ; \$2; OMGPOP

APP GEMS

Podcast Managers

Downcast  Terrific navigation and syncing features make this a must-have for podcast fans (macworld.com/7725).

iCatcher  macworld.com/7393

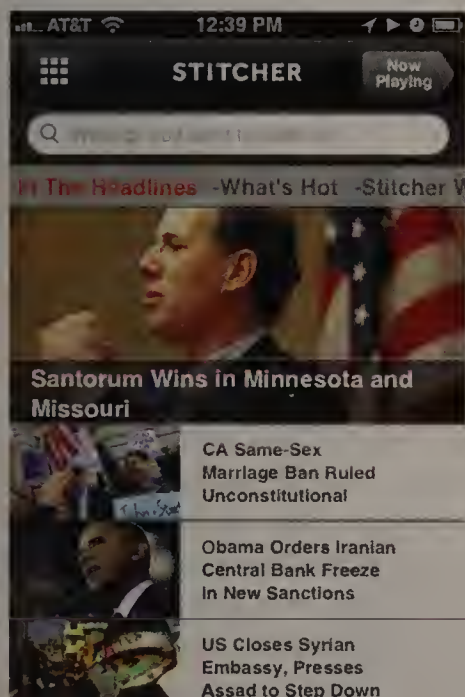
Instacast  macworld.com/7726

Find other podcasting apps at macworld.com/7727.

Machinarium 1.2

GAMES Offering some eye-popping graphics, Machinarium delivers a truly unique experience with more heart than the average tin man. In classic point-and-click adventure game fashion, you solve puzzles, helping your robot character move through an overarching narrative. Hand-painted visuals of industrial landscapes and mechanical characters feel both cartoony and believable in their texture and detail, while the soundtrack blends elements of ambient electronica, jazz, and dubstep to fit the scenes unfolding on the screen. You'll need some serious processing power—the game requires an iPad 2 or later—but Machinarium really springs to life.—**JASON TOCCI**
iPad | ; \$5; Amanita Design





Stitcher Radio 4.8.2

MUSIC While most audio apps for the iPad and iPhone focus on either delivering Internet radio or offering a channel for your favorite podcasts, Stitcher Radio blends both in a unique magazine-style user interface with social networking options. The app uses your listening habits and your feedback on the stories and shows it provides to shape future recommendations. Designate a radio station or podcast as a favorite, and the app creates a Pandora-style station of your favorite shows. Stitcher encourages exploration of content you haven't heard before, but also makes it easy to listen to precisely what you like.—**JOEL MATHIS**
iPhone/iPad | ; free; Stitcher

Sparrow 1.1

EMAIL Fans of the Mac version of Sparrow (; macworld.com/7718) will appreciate the elegant design of Sparrow for iPhone, even if the iOS mail client doesn't support push notifications. (That's an Apple-imposed limitation—one I hope the developer finds a way around.) Sparrow for iOS stands out with its use of swiping gestures for navigating your inbox and managing messages. Sparrow handles contacts with aplomb: I particularly like the ability to choose To, Cc, or Bcc options via icons that appear directly on each contact.—**BRIAN BEAM**
iPhone | ; \$3; Sparrow SARL



ESSENTIAL APPS

Retina Ready

The latest iPad has a sharp-looking screen, and plenty of our favorite apps can take advantage of that (macworld.com/7724).

ABC Player Your favorite ABC shows will look great on the iPad's 2048-by-1536-pixel screen.

SketchBook Pro for iPad Artists can take advantage of more layers on the latest iPad.

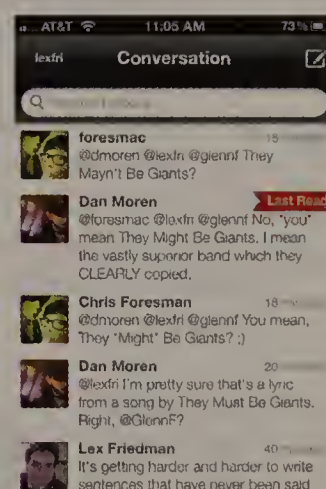
Solar Walk See all the planets in detail with the iPad's improved resolution.

Kindle Text in this e-reading app now looks like it's printed on a page.

Twittelator Neue 1.1.1

SOCIAL NETWORKING

Trend-bucking stylistic choices characterize Twittelator Neue. When tweets contain links to images, the iPhone Twitter client inserts small gaps in the timeline that enable you to take a peek at the linked image. I don't care for the fact that Twittelator Neue charges you extra for Notification Center support, and navigating tweets in the app can be annoying. But if you find other Twitter clients wanting, this app may be the right choice for you.—**LEX FRIEDMAN**
iPhone | ; \$3; Big Stone Phone



More Reviews

See more iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch apps we've tested at iOS Central (macworld.com/4164).

APPLICATION	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	RATING	FIND CODE*
Cleartune 2.1.1 Bitcount	chromatic instrument tuner	\$4		7719
Fairway Solitaire HD 1.0.3 Big Fish Games	iPad card game	free		7720
The Guitar Collection: George Harrison Bandwidth	iPad instrument reference guide	\$10		7721
MagicalPad 2.2 MagicalPad	iPad outliner and mind-mapping app	\$1		7722
Wigglehop Movies and Showtimes 1.4 Plastic Trophy	movie listings guide	free		7723

* In a browser's address field, typing a find code after macworld.com directs you to a product's review or overview. For example, macworld.com/7719 takes you to our review of Cleartune.

App Guide

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REVIEWS

Accessories and Add-ons
for Your iOS Devices



HARDWARE

Orbotix Sphero ▴

Promising hours of fun—for you and your pets—the Sphero is a glowing, app-controlled orb that connects to your iOS device via Bluetooth to allow you to control the ball from up to 50 feet away. The free Sphero Drive app (macworld.com/7734) lets you control the orb's movements, but other free iOS downloads enable it to capture video and photos or follow a course you sketch out on an iPhone or iPad—you can even play a round of golf using the Sphero as your ball. You can tweak the Sphero's behavior for the best performance on different surfaces. Orienting yourself to the Sphero can take some getting used to, but it's a fun and versatile iOS-controlled toy.

★★★★½; \$130; Orbotix;

www.gosphero.com

Scosche Kickback g4 ▽

The built-in kickstand of Scosche's Kickback g4 may seem gimmicky at first, but you'll enjoy using this hybrid case-kickstand for the iPhone 4 and 4S. Available in three color schemes, the Kickback g4's polycarbonate plastic exterior is both smooth and sturdy, and it doesn't add a lot of weight or bulk to your iPhone. Nice design touches include a rubber trim that keeps the screen from touching surfaces when your phone is facedown, and openings for every exterior port. The stand comes in handy



if you watch a lot of videos or frequently conduct FaceTime chats.

★★★★; \$35; Scosche; www.scosche.com

Speck CandyShell ▸

Speck's CandyShell for iPhone 4 and 4S is a hard-shell case with a soft lining. The two-toned CandyShell comes in 15 unusual and delicious colors to fit the "candy"



name (Raspberry Truffle White and SeaDragon Purple, for example). The hard polycarbonate plastic outer shell pairs with a rubbery thermoplastic elastomer interior and edge that comes right up over the outer bezel of the screen, keeping your iPhone snug and secure while adding a bit of bulk. You may need to remove your iPhone to use it with dock-cradle accessories, but overall this nice offering adds a splash of flash to your iOS device.

★★★★½; \$35; Speck;

www.speckproducts.com

iOS Devices: Current Lineup

PRODUCT	SPECS	RATING	PRICE ^A	DISPLAY	PERFORMANCE	FIND CODE ^B
iPad ^C	16GB	Wi-Fi, ★★★★★½; 4G, ★★★★★½	Wi-Fi, \$499; 4G, \$629	9.7-inch color (Retina)	Up to 10 hours on Wi-Fi; up to 9 hours on 4G	7696 Wi-Fi 7699 4G
	32GB	Wi-Fi, ★★★★★½; 4G, ★★★★★½	Wi-Fi, \$599; 4G, \$729	9.7-inch color (Retina)	Up to 10 hours on Wi-Fi; up to 9 hours on 4G	7697 Wi-Fi 7700 4G
	64GB	Wi-Fi, ★★★★★½; 4G, ★★★★★½	Wi-Fi, \$699; 4G, \$829	9.7-inch color (Retina)	Up to 10 hours on Wi-Fi; up to 9 hours on 4G	7698 Wi-Fi 7701 4G
	16GB (iPad 2)	Wi-Fi, ★★★★★½; 3G, ★★★★★½	Wi-Fi, \$399; 3G, \$529	9.7-inch color	Up to 10 hours on Wi-Fi; up to 9 hours on 3G	7030 Wi-Fi 7031 3G
iPhone 3GS, 4, and 4S	8GB 3GS ^D	★★★★	free	3.5-inch color	9 hours of Wi-Fi Internet; 5 hours of 3G talk time	6255
	8GB 4 ^E	★★★★	\$99	3.5-inch color (Retina)	10 hours of Wi-Fi Internet; 7 hours of 3G talk time	7516 GSM 7520 CDMA
	16GB 4S ^E	★★★★	\$199	3.5-inch color (Retina)	9 hours of Wi-Fi Internet; 8 hours of 3G talk time	7517
	32GB 4S ^E	★★★★	\$299	3.5-inch color (Retina)	9 hours of Wi-Fi Internet; 8 hours of 3G talk time	7518
	64GB 4S ^E	★★★★	\$399	3.5-inch color (Retina)	9 hours of Wi-Fi Internet; 8 hours of 3G talk time	7519
iPod Touch	8GB	★★★★½	\$199	3.5-inch color (Retina)	40 hours of music playback; 7 hours of video playback	6553
	32GB	★★★★½	\$299	3.5-inch color (Retina)	40 hours of music playback; 7 hours of video playback	6554
	64GB	★★★★½	\$399	3.5-inch color (Retina)	40 hours of music playback; 7 hours of video playback	6555

^AAll prices are Apple's prices. ^BIn a browser's address field, typing in a find code after macworld.com/ takes you to a product's review or overview. ^CThere are separate Wi-Fi + 4G iPad models for AT&T's network and for Verizon's. ^DThis phone is available only with an AT&T plan. ^EThese models are available with an AT&T, Sprint, or Verizon plan.

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OS X MOUNTAIN LION

We answer your questions about Apple's
next Mac OS

PREVIEW

Any time a new operating system debuts, there are bound to be lots of questions about its new features and capabilities. And when that operating system's unveiling comes unexpectedly, those questions take on extra urgency.

Not to worry: We've had a chance to spend some quality time with the next incarnation of the Mac OS—version 10.8, or Mountain Lion—and we're prepared to answer any questions you might have about its availability, added features, and enhancements to existing applications. (Keep in mind that Mountain Lion is in beta, and Apple may change a few things before releasing the OS upgrade.) And don't worry if you've still got lingering questions—we have a while before Mountain Lion arrives to sort everything out.

Photography by Peter Belanger

AVAILABILITY

Q: Has Apple announced when Mountain Lion will be available to the general public?

A: A developer preview of Mountain Lion is available now, so that software makers can update their apps. As for end users—the rest of us—Apple specifically said “late summer 2012” in a press release. So Mountain Lion could leap into action any time before the fall equinox on September 22. For your historical reference, Lion arrived on July 20, 2011, while Snow Leopard shipped on August 28, 2009—both those OS X updates were given initial release dates of summer.

Q: How can I get a copy of Mountain Lion once it goes on sale?

A: Apple plans to make the new version of OS X available only as a download from its Mac App Store online.

Apple first put this policy in place with last year's Lion release. Official details about Mountain Lion's rollout haven't been released, but it wouldn't be crazy to assume that many of the same conditions for Lion's release will hold true this time around—namely, that you pay for and download one copy of the update, which you can install on multiple Macs. With that release, Apple also invited upgraders to take advantage of the Wi-Fi in its retail stores to download and install the update—ideal if you have a slow broadband connection or need help with installation.

Apple told *Macworld* that it doesn't intend to release Mountain Lion on a USB flash drive, as it did with Lion. Of course, prior to Lion's launch, Apple was insisting that the Mac App Store would be the only source for that update, too, so we'll have to wait and see if anything changes.

Q: Can I upgrade to Mountain Lion straight from Snow Leopard?

A: According to the information Apple has provided with the developer preview, you need to be running at least the latest version of Snow Leopard (OS X 10.6.8) to install Mountain Lion.

Q: What version of Mac OS X is Mountain Lion?

A: Version 10.8, and it's just OS X now.



OS X 10.8 Apple has dropped the word *Mac* from the name of its Mac OS.

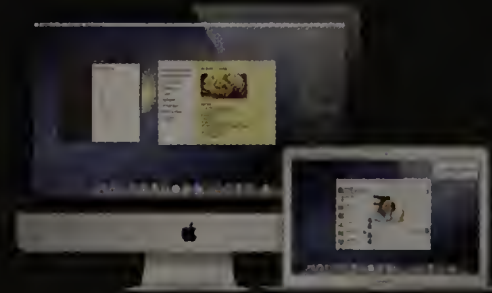
Mountain Lion: Which Macs Are Compatible?

Apple hasn't officially announced which Macs will be able to run the new OS. However, the following models are supported by the initial developer preview version:

- > iMac: 2007 and later
- > Mac mini: 2009 and later
- > Mac Pro: 2008 and later
- > MacBook: Late 2008 and later
- > MacBook Air: Late 2008 and later
- > MacBook Pro: 2007 and later
- > Xserve: 2009

Some models that Lion supports aren't in that list—just because your Mac can run Lion doesn't mean it will be able to run Mountain Lion. Specifically, the following models can run Lion but aren't compatible with the initial developer preview of Mountain Lion:

- > iMac: 2006
- > Mac mini: Mid-2007
- > Mac Pro: 2006 and 2007
- > MacBook: Early 2008 and earlier
- > MacBook Air: 2008 (original)
- > MacBook Pro: 2006 (15-inch and 17-inch models)
- > Xserve: 2006 and 2008



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF APPLE



Online Only Mountain Lion will be sold only through the Mac App Store.

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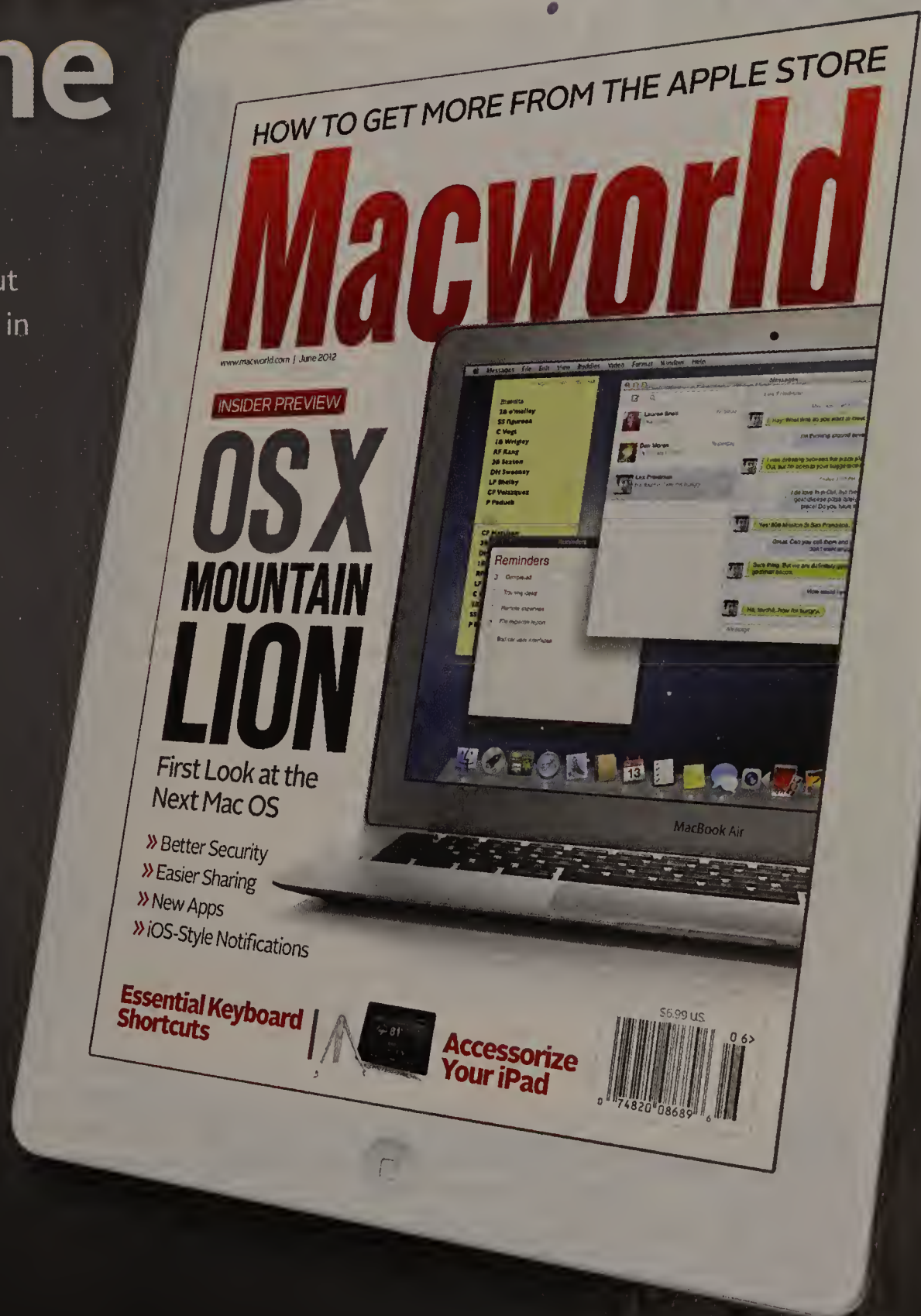
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FEATURES

Q: How many new features and enhancements does Mountain Lion deliver?

A: Apple boasts that the developer preview contains more than 100 new features. We'll probably see a detailed list soon.

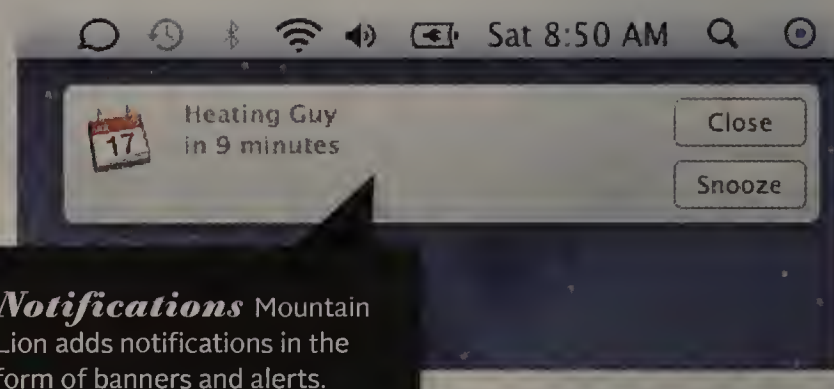
Apple did provide us with descriptions of a few without going into great detail. These include new graphics infrastructure for OpenGL and OpenCL, form input in Preview, virtual memory performance optimizations, OS X updates in the Mac App Store, improved smart card support, search suggestions in Calendar, Launchpad search, kernel ASLR (a security method), and improved gesture APIs for the trackpad.

Q: Lion drew heavily on iOS for its feature set. Does Mountain Lion continue that?

A: Yes. Like Lion, Mountain Lion offers numerous additions that will be familiar to iOS users, such as Messages, Reminders, Notes, Notification Center, Twitter integration, Game Center, and AirPlay Mirroring.

Q: Are there any Lion features that Apple is dropping in Mountain Lion?

A: Largely, features introduced with Lion are here to stay. Some apps have interface tweaks. And Apple is phasing RSS out of Safari.



Q: What—if any—features in Mountain Lion will be available to Lion or Snow Leopard users?

A: Apple hasn't announced yet whether it plans to make any of these new apps or features available for Lion or Snow Leopard users, but we'd guess it's not likely that users of previous operating systems will see them. Faster, cheaper OS updates mean the company has less time to integrate newer apps with older operating systems; if you're still holding back on upgrading, you'll have to forgo the newest features.

Apple is allowing Lion users to download a beta of Messages, so it's entirely possible that Messages may support 10.7 when it's officially released. (Apple first introduced FaceTime for Mac as a beta and charged \$1 to install the final version on Snow Leopard; FaceTime comes included with Lion. The company could do the same with Messages, charging for a Lion version and including it in Mountain Lion.) Some reports, however, suggest that Apple's current plan is to sunset the Lion beta after Mountain Lion's official release.

Q: Which iOS features is Apple including in Mountain Lion?


A: From what we know, Mountain Lion shares and syncs Messages, Notes, and Reminders (without the location-based reminders that iOS sports). It also integrates Game Center, the gaming service Apple introduced to iPhone and iPad users with iOS 4.1. In addition, OS X adds its own version of Notification Center and Share Sheets, the ability to sync with iCloud documents and accounts, systemwide Twitter integration, and AirPlay Mirroring. Certain Mac apps also take design and functionality cues from iOS apps, like Preview's new iBooks-style annotations and iChat's transformation into Messages.

Q: How do notifications work in Mountain Lion?

A: When you receive a notification in Mountain Lion, it appears in a small floating window in the upper right corner of the Mac's display. Notifications come in two forms: banners and alerts. Banners appear for a few seconds and then disappear from view; alerts require that you manually acknowledge them before they disappear. Clicking on a banner or alert sends you directly to the relevant application.




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Karim Rashid is one of the most prolific designers of his generation. With over 3000 designs in production and over 300 awards earned, Karim has become a household name that over 40 countries can attest to. He exhibits art in galleries all around the world and has been featured in magazines such as Time, Esquire, and GQ. He has come up with a magnitude of designs for companies such as Hugo Boss, Ralph Lauren, Samsung, Sony, Hyundai, Audi, Coca Cola, Google, Yahoo, and Disney to name a few.


www.spigen.com

Q: Who decides which notifications get an alert and which ones get a banner?

A: You do. Using the new Notifications pane in System Preferences, you can set on a per-app basis whether you want your notifications to appear as five-second banners or alerts that remain visible until you click them.

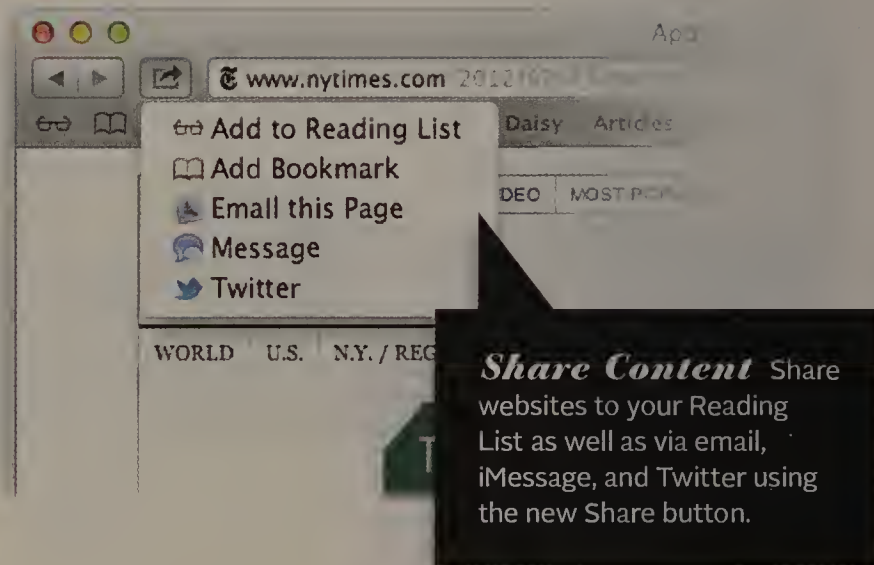
That preference pane is also where you can specify which apps appear within Notification Center. By default, Calendar, Reminders, Game Center, Safari, Mail, and Messages are configured to send notifications.

Q: What if I don't see a banner notification before it disappears?

A: If a banner notification disappears before you can get to it, you can bring up Notification Center by clicking on the Notification Center icon in the menu bar, by entering a keyboard shortcut, or by performing a two-finger swipe on an input device. The desktop shifts to the left, displaying all current notifications in a dark gray column, sorted by app, along the right edge of the screen. When you click on a notification in this list, the corresponding app opens and displays the related item.

Q: What's the Multi-Touch gesture to open Notification Center?

A: Starting at the far right edge of the trackpad, swipe with two fingers to the left (as if you were pulling something away from the right side of the screen). You can also assign a keyboard shortcut to show and hide Notification Center (in System Preferences, choose Keyboard and then Keyboard Shortcuts).



Q: There's a new feature called Gatekeeper. How does it work?

A: Mountain Lion's Gatekeeper is a new security technology that allows you to download and install apps from developers registered with Apple, regardless of whether those apps are available for sale on the Mac App Store or on the Web. If an app that a registered developer has signed misbehaves, Apple can disable that app and ban the developer from creating new software registered with Apple.

Q: Will Mountain Lion's Gatekeeper prevent my current software collection from running? Will I only be able to run apps I download from the Mac App Store?

UP CLOSE: Calendar

The big change (besides the fact that Calendar used to be known as iCal) is that Calendar in Mountain Lion brings back the dedicated Calendars sidebar. Instead of requiring that you click a button to view your list of calendars, Calendar provides that list, organized by calendar type, in a Snow Leopard-style sidebar on the left side. Below that list is a mini calendar view that, by default, displays the current and upcoming months.

One small—but welcome—change is the addition of Apple's OS X search tokens for Calendar's events search (tokens allow you to filter results by sender, recipient, subject line, and other parameters). Calendar intelligently tries to suggest categories while you type; categories can include

organizers, event titles, and notes associated with an event. Just as with Finder and Mail searches, you can stack categories: For instance, you could search for any events organized by Macworld with the name meeting. Apple has also redesigned search results, which now appear in an abbreviated form along the right side of the app.

Another significant change in Calendar is that Apple has completely revamped alerts and event reminders. For each of your accounts, you can now customize your default alerts individually for timed



New Look Calendar still tries a bit too hard to look like a physical desk calendar, but the redesign does is a little more subtle.

events, all-day events, and even birthdays; you can set each of these alerts to occur a specified number of minutes, hours, or days before the event.

—SERENITY CALDWELL AND DAN FRANKS

A: No—you can open any software you choose to, though you can restrict this setting to Mac App Store-only purchases. In System Preferences, select Security & Privacy and then General to choose to run only software that comes from the Mac App Store; software from the store and from Apple-registered non-Mac App Store developers; or software from any developer.

Q: How does Mountain Lion's Share feature work?

A: Like iOS, Mountain Lion has a Share button that allows you to send just about anything—webpage, picture, video, file, text excerpt—using a variety of services. Those services vary depending on the app: For example, in Safari, you can post webpages to your Reading List as well as send them via email, iMessage, and Twitter, and you can share videos via YouTube, Vimeo, or AirDrop. If you Control-click any text selection on a webpage, you can share it via email, iMessage, or Twitter.

In addition, the Mail, Contacts, and Calendars pane in System Preferences has been updated so that you can add systemwide integration with Twitter, Flickr, and Vimeo, along with three other services based in China.

Q: What about Mountain Lion and iCloud? How does iCloud differ on Lion?

A: Building on Lion's basic iCloud integration, Mountain Lion supports account syncing, allowing you to take your passwords and preferences from one machine to another, along with your documents and data. You can also sync your notes, and—while we haven't been able to confirm this personally—you may be able to sync your open Safari tabs.

Q: Will integration between iCloud and Mountain Lion replace any soon-to-be-dead MobileMe features?

A: Apple plans to discontinue iWeb publishing, MobileMe Gallery, and iDisk in June. Mountain Lion's account syncing will transfer passwords, but otherwise there are no resurrections of major MobileMe features.

Q: Does this integration foreshadow any changes in iLife or iWork? Does it break anything in iWeb?

A: Mountain Lion now has access to iCloud's Documents in the Cloud. Apple showed us a version of Pages that worked with that feature. That amounts to a stealth announcement of a new version of the iWork Mac apps that will support Documents in the Cloud in Mountain Lion. It'd be nice to see a similar update of the iLife apps so users could transfer projects to and from their devices without docking or iTunes File Sharing.

iWeb is still functional in Mountain Lion, but as Apple is discontinuing MobileMe hosting for websites this June and shows no interest in updating the iWeb app, it might be time to look at alternatives such as Karelia Software's \$80 Sandvox and Realmac Software's \$79 RapidWeaver.

UP CLOSE: Safari

Refined search interfaces, sharing integration, and clear-cut password storage are just three of the things you have to look forward to in Safari, come this summer. Here are a few brief impressions of Safari's new features.

Unified Field

The browser now sports a single field that you can use to type in a URL; to pull up the top result in your selected search engine from a keyword; or search the Web, your bookmarks and history, or the page you're currently viewing on. URLs themselves have taken on a Chrome-esque look, automatically removing the *http://* at the beginning of the link and graying out everything in the URL following the root domain.

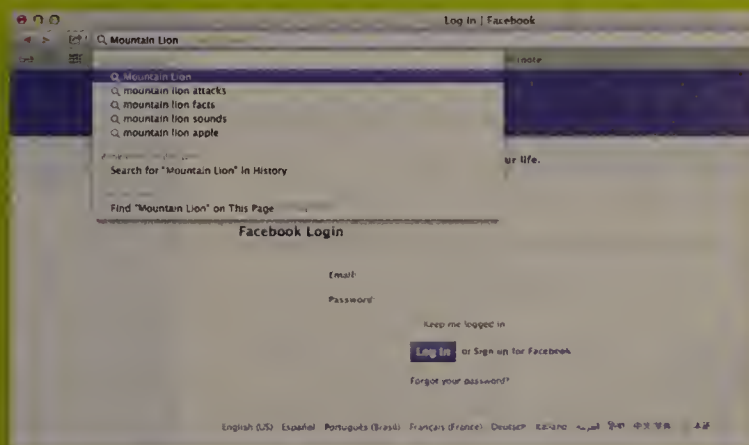
RSS and Privacy

Apple has excised RSS entirely from Safari. If you have an RSS program installed and try to type in or click on a *feed://* address in Safari, the RSS link opens in your RSS program. In place of the RSS button and old search bar, Safari has added a prominent button for Safari Reader, which highlights the text on a page for a better browsing experience.

There's now a Tell Websites Not To Track Me option under Privacy, along with a setting to Allow Search Engine To Provide Suggestions, which relates to Safari's search capabilities. A new Passwords section lets users see each website they've saved information for. You can delete stored passwords individually or remove all of them at once.

Notifications

It also appears that websites in Safari can send notifications to Notification Center—though this requires user approval, of course. Each site can either prompt you for authorization, or you can deny permission outright; there's also a list of sites you've approved in the past, which you can prune in the same way you can the Passwords section.—SERENITY CALDWELL



Web Notifications Safari's preferences have an option for websites to send notifications to your computer (with your permission).



Multiplayer Action Game Center in Mountain Lion lets gamers play against each other on a Mac or an iOS device.

Q: What is Software Update's role, if any, in Mountain Lion?

A: The Mac App Store is now the sole place to get Apple software updates. When new software is available, you receive a notification in Notification Center. You can download the update by opening the App Store app and selecting the Updates tab. Notifications also carry over to any Mac App Store apps, meaning that you no longer need to leave the App Store perennially open to check for updates to your programs.

Q: Does Dashboard get any love? How about Launchpad?

A: Surprisingly, yes—they both do. Dashboard receives a new widget browser reminiscent of Launchpad (or the iOS home screen), along with a search bar along the top; it's still unclear whether this means Apple is interested in porting over more iOS-like widgets, but color us intrigued. As for Launchpad, it gets a small tweak—a search bar, present at the top of each Launchpad screen.

Q: What does Game Center on the Mac mean for games on the Mac?

A: We'll have to wait and see until Mountain Lion actually comes out, as Game Center isn't very useful

without apps that utilize it. That said, your iOS Game Center accounts carry over, and you should be able to do many of the same things you use Game Center in iOS to do—invite other players to take part in games, keep track of achievements, and find new things to play.

Q: Has Apple done anything about the behemoth that is iTunes?

UP CLOSE: Contacts

Many iOS users will welcome Contacts, formerly known as Address Book, based on the name change alone—now they can launch an address book in Spotlight by typing **contacts**. But the biggest improvement is the return of the three-column layout. No more do you have to click a virtual bookmark to turn virtual pages ever so slowly; instead, you choose from three display modes: card (single column); card and contacts (two columns); or card, contacts, and groups (three columns). To retain the app's book-like design, the three-pane view narrows your contacts list, allowing the Groups sidebar to sit on the far left of the page.

Contacts additionally includes Mountain Lion's Share button at the bottom of each card; you can export that card (in .vcf format) as an email or iMessage attachment, or via AirDrop.—**SERENITY CALDWELL AND DAN FRANKS**



So Long, Address Book Address Book is now called Contacts, and it sports significant layout changes.

A: No—at least not yet. The version of iTunes in our beta of Mountain Lion is 10.5.3, the same one that's currently shipping. This may change before Mountain Lion launches, but we don't know for sure.

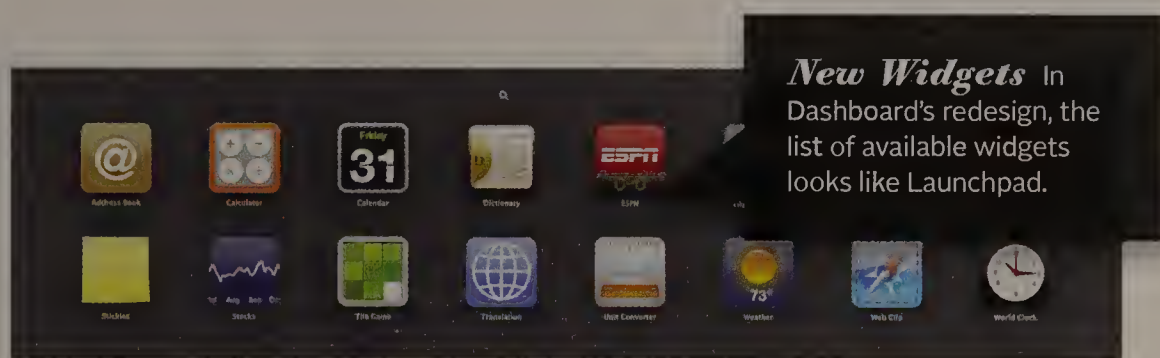
Q: So iChat is becoming Messages. Does that mean I can send messages from my Mac to people who have an iPhone, iPod touch, or iPad? How does that work?

A: Yes, you can use Messages to chat between Macs and iOS devices—iMessages are Internet-based missives, and thus can be sent between any two devices running the Messages app. If you have contacts that you send iMessages to but don't IM, you'll need to type in their phone numbers or email addresses manually, or add them to a buddy list—just as

you would in iChat. If you use Messages to send iMessages, and your iPhone or iPad is nearby, you'll receive your replies on all your devices, along with your Mac.

Q: Can I still share the screen, host video-conferences, and use iChat Theater?

A: You can still do all of these things, although they require that you use an AIM account rather than an iMessage one. You can video chat on AIM as usual, or you



THE LITTLE THINGS THAT COUNT IN OS X 10.8

Mountain Lion contains plenty of minor system changes. Here's a quick look at seven of them.

Account Sync

Mountain Lion lets users sync their accounts across computers. This feature may not be as complete as iOS's Restore From iCloud Backup, but any kind of account parity between computers—especially if this brings back the ability to sync passwords and Dock items—is a welcome addition.

Improved Screen Sharing

Every Mountain Lion user who relies on screen sharing gains drag-and-drop file-sharing privileges.

Multiple-Disk Backup

Mountain Lion lets you use Time Machine to back up automatically to several disks at once. And since OS X supports backup to networked drives, you can keep files current in several physical places without doing any extra work.

Accessibility

In the past, Apple's Universal Access preference pane presented a panoply of

options to the user and was a bit intimidating. Mountain Lion's revised Accessibility pane simplifies the process by taking a cue from iOS: It presents information in three categories—Seeing, Hearing, and Interacting—with clearly labeled subsections under each category.

New Screensavers

You can choose from 15 different slideshow options—including Holiday Mobile, Photo Wall, and Scrapbook—that highlight selections from your iPhoto or Aperture library or from any folder.

UI Tweaks

Apple has simplified Lion's three-finger double-tap to bring up dictionary definitions, reducing it to a single three-finger tap. For those users who don't love how Lion replaced Save As with the Duplicate command, Mountain Lion attempts to ease the pain by automatically associating the Save As keyboard shortcut (⌘-Shift-S) with the Duplicate command.



Screen Savers Mountain Lion has slide-show options available as screensavers.

And you now have the option to rename files within the Open or Save dialog box.

Dashboard Improvements

Mountain Lion organizes Dashboard widgets similar to the way apps are organized on an iOS home screen (and in Lion's Launchpad), with an icon representing each widget and with the icons arranged in rows. You can even sort these icons into folders, as well as rearrange them individually.—SERENITY CALDWELL

UP CLOSE: Mail

The changes to Mail in Mountain Lion are subtle, though there are some nice improvements—along with one significant omission.

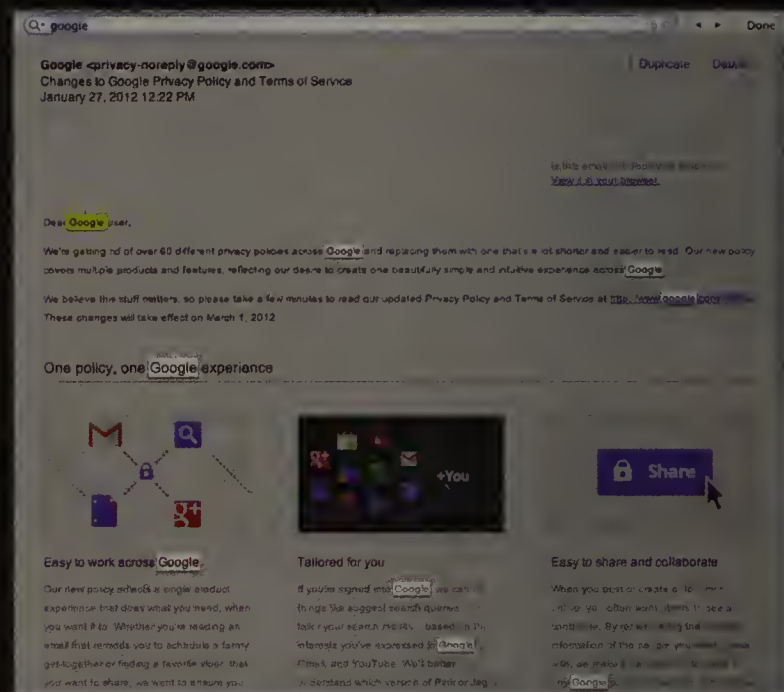
Mail in Mountain Lion gains a Safari-like inline find feature: Press ⌘-F (or choose the Find command in the Edit menu) and type your search string in a field just above the body of the current message. The message text is dimmed, while every occurrence of your search string is highlighted. You can use the arrow buttons next to the search field, or their keyboard-shortcut equivalents, to cycle through these occurrences.

You still have the capability to use find and replace, however. Whenever you do an inline find while composing a message, a Replace checkbox appears; check that box, and you can enter your replacement text, with options to replace just the current instance or all instances of the search string.

Mail takes advantage of Notification Center to alert you to new messages, but instead of displaying a notification for every new message, Mail lets you choose which new messages should trigger alerts. You can also use notifications in

Mail rules, since Send Notification is a new option for rule actions.

Mail in Mountain Lion adds a feature called VIPs that makes a particular person's messages easier to identify. A VIP is any person you designate as important enough to have Mail treat his or her messages differently. You designate someone as a VIP by clicking the star icon to the left of the person's name in any incoming or sent message. You'll immediately notice that every message to or from that person now displays a star in message lists, making it easier to find those messages. In addition, when you designate a sender as a VIP, that person gets his or her own entry in a new VIPs section of Mail's Mailboxes sidebar. Click a VIP's name, and you get a



Highlights Mail's search now highlights the appearance of a term in your email.

list of all messages, across all mailboxes (including Sent and Trash), addressed to or from that person.

One thing we didn't find in Mountain Lion's Mail app is support for RSS. Mail's preference pane has been stripped of the RSS tab, and there's no longer an Add RSS Feeds command in Mail's File menu.—**DAN FRANKS**

can launch the FaceTime app via an embedded button in the chat window.

Q: Speaking of FaceTime, is it still part of Mountain Lion?

A: FaceTime is still present and accounted for. FaceTime sessions take place within the FaceTime app on the Mac. Though Messages offers integration with FaceTime—you can kick off a FaceTime session from within the Messages window—it doesn't actually handle the FaceTime part. That's still a separate app. (Other video chats and screen sharing still take place within Messages, as they did when it was called iChat.)

Q: What's going on with Preview? Does this app have new features?

A: In Mountain Lion, Preview gets a slight interface redesign and gains two features: form input and iBooks-style annotations.

Q: What's up with Photo Booth and QuickTime in Mountain Lion?

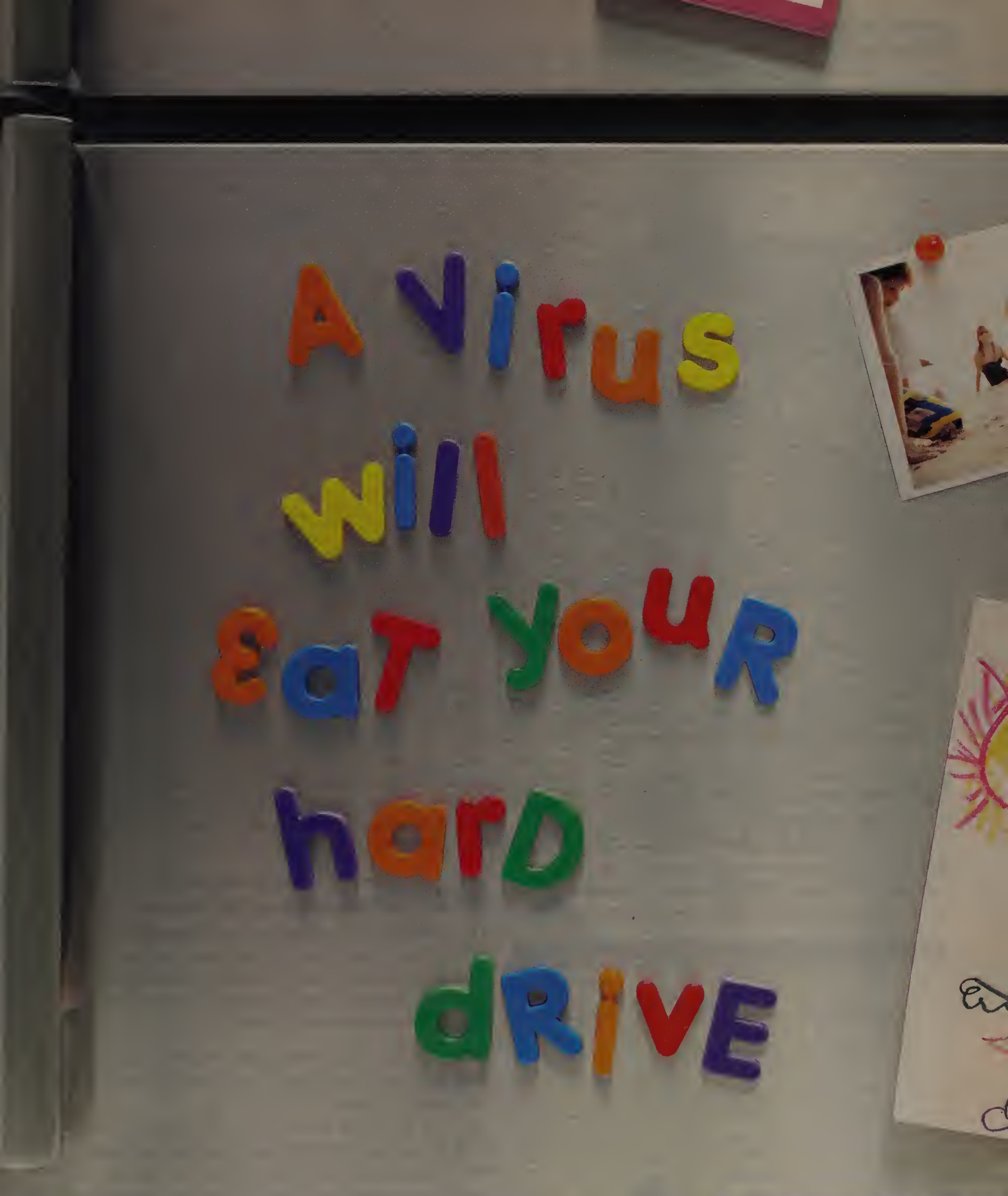
A: The new operating system includes both apps, and they gain Share options that allow you to share content with other users.

Q: Does Messages for Mac have a background listener for messages? Or must I have it open to receive messages?

A: Currently, you don't see notifications in Notification Center when Messages is closed—for all we know, that could change before the final release. But if you have Messages in your Dock, the app's icon displays a red badge alert with the number of messages you've missed.

Q: Are there any notable differences between Notes in iOS and in Mountain Lion?

A: Notes is a new app in Mountain Lion. The Mac version is similar in look to the iPad version, since it lists all your



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will
eat your
hard
drive

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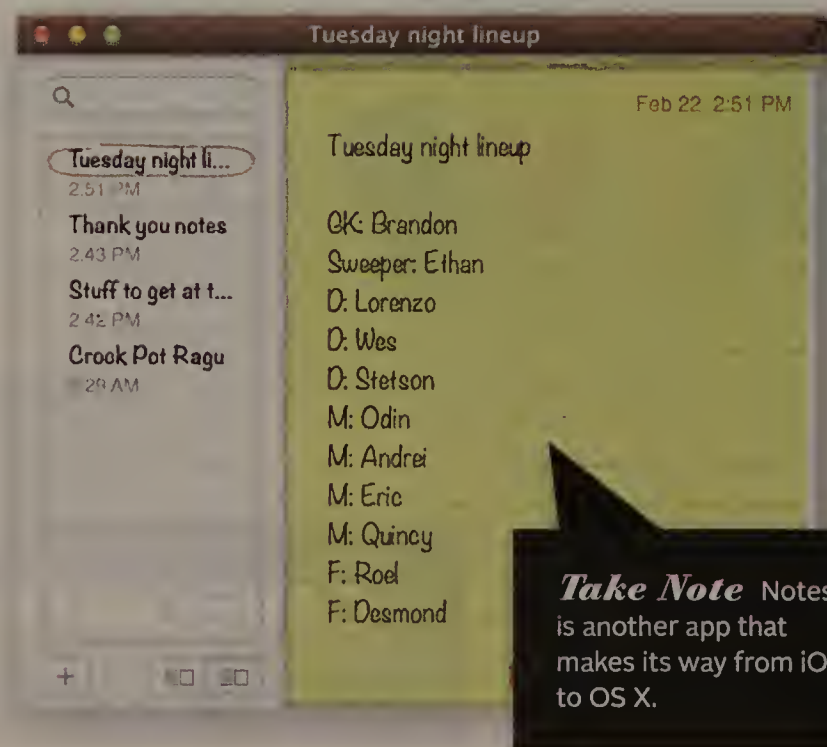
iChat Reborn Messages in Mountain Lion looks much like the Messages app on the iPad, which is no coincidence.

notes in a column on the left of the app window. And in other ways it tracks pretty closely with the iOS version. You can display and edit single notes, view a list of all your notes, or, if you have multiple accounts, choose to view just a selection of notes based on the account in which you created them.

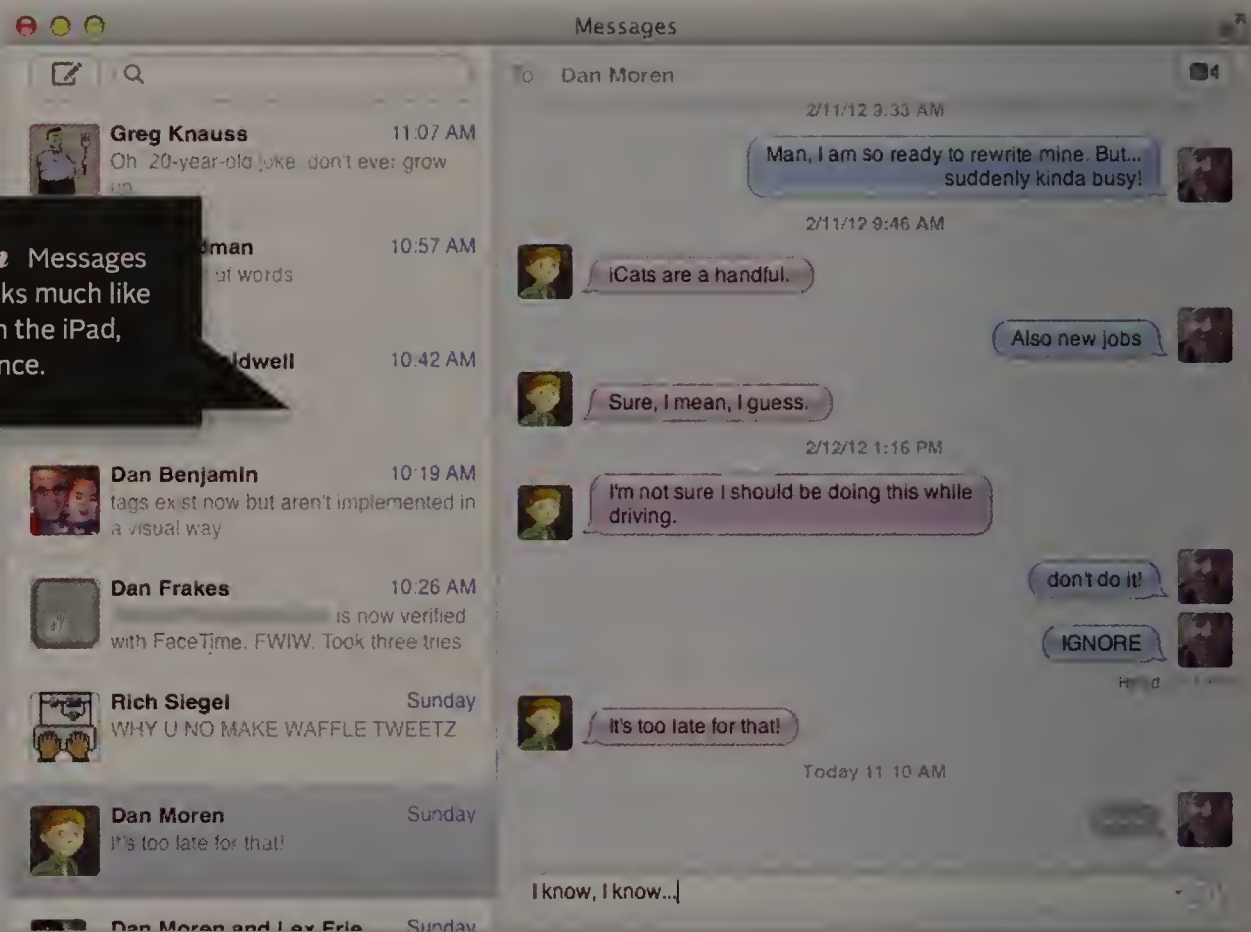
Unlike Notes in iOS, the Mountain Lion version can use any font found on your Mac. The app also supports rich text, text alignment, photos and attachments, bulleted lists, and URLs to create hyperlinks.

Q: How similar is the Reminders app in Mountain Lion to its iOS counterpart? Does it work the same way?

A: Reminders in Mountain Lion retains the same look and feel as the iOS app, though you can't create location-based reminders or see any reminders you've created on an iOS device. For that, you have to create shared lists on iCloud.com.



Take Note Notes is another app that makes its way from iOS to OS X.



Q: Please tell me TextEdit still exists in Mountain Lion—or has Notes replaced it? What about Stickies?

A: The TextEdit app is still around. So is Stickies, in the Dashboard. Both appear largely unchanged. It's possible that Apple might kill them at some point, but it seems unlikely, because they both serve their purposes and are decidedly different from Notes.

Q: Are the Mac's System Preferences now called Settings, to match iOS?

A: If you're on a Mac, the app is still called System Preferences—but you're right, given that the same thing is called Settings in iOS, it seems like just a matter of time before Apple changes the utility's name in its embrace of consistent naming across iOS and OS X.

Q: I hoped Mountain Lion would introduce other iOS features, such as Find My Friends and iBooks apps.

A: It sure would be nice to have those apps in Mountain Lion, but don't let their absence from the Mountain Lion announcement discourage you. In iOS, Apple released both Find My Friends and iBooks via the App Store rather than bundling them with the operating system, and it may do the same for the Mac versions of these apps. If Apple does create iBooks for the Mac, the company would presumably release it on the Mac App Store, not as part of Mountain Lion proper.

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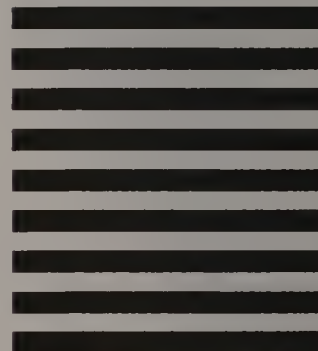
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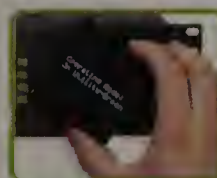
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TIPS ON MAKING THE MOST OF THE LANDMARK R



INSIDE THE APPLE STORE

MAIL OUTLETS | BY SERENITY CALDWELL | PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER BELANGER



 PERSONAL
SETUP:
HAVE YOUR
APPS, DATA,
AND USER
ACCOUNTS
MOVED TO
YOUR NEW
DEVICE.

A work of art,” “a place to learn,” “lines that stretch down the block”: You don’t normally associate those phrases with retail outlets (except perhaps for that last one). But each one has been used to describe Apple’s retail stores. What began in 2001 as an experiment—one that many retail experts derided at the time—has become a retail revolution: Consumers love Apple’s stores for their clean, modern design, their extensive selection, and their Geniuses; other companies envy them and sometimes try to copy them.

Whether you’re an Apple Store regular or a newbie, there are probably things in it you don’t know about. So take a deeper look past those glass doors to find out how you can make the most of the Apple retail experience.

PEEK, PLAY, BUY

How do you prove to a market dominated by Windows machines that Apple’s hardware and software are superior? You show it off. The goal of the first Apple Stores was just that: Lure customers in by letting them play with Macs. Mac converts could play with new hardware, and potential switchers could ask questions, try out programs, and surf the Web, all without plopping down a credit card.

Today, the stores’ mission remains unchanged. When you walk into a store, you’re greeted with the full range of Apple hardware: iMacs, MacBooks, Mac Pros, iPads, iPhones, iPods, and more. Even the signage is Apple-

centric: The signboard for each product on display consists of an iPad running an app that details everything you might want to know about that particular device. There’s even an on-screen button to call a Specialist over if you have questions.

The Specialists are the blue-shirted stalwarts of the Apple Store. They are sometimes accused of being too helpful—upon entering a store, it’s unusual if you aren’t

greeted by at least two of them—but they’re not the typical hard-sell types. In fact, most employees will freely admit that they don’t earn a commission; their wages are hourly. Instead, their enthusiasm seems genuinely directed at helping customers in need.

You can avoid the Specialists for all but the end purchase if you’d rather explore on your own. And for smaller purchases, you can even waive the purchase interaction, assuming you have an iPhone 4 or 4S. The Apple Store app allows you to check out by simply scanning the product’s barcode with your device’s camera and then paying with your Apple ID (the same account you use for iTunes).

For those who would rather skip the experience of the store altogether, but who don't want to wait for door-to-door shipping, the Apple Store offers another option: In certain cities, you can browse Apple's online store, select items for checkout, and then—instead of selecting shipping—choose to pick up your products in-store. When you arrive at the store, let a Specialist know you're picking up an order, and he or she will bring your items directly out to you.

RETURN TO LEARN

The front half of the store (or, in bigger locations, the first floor) is where most playing and purchasing happens. Enter the rear section (or another floor), however, and you cross from the retail area to a hybrid classroom and technician's workshop. Here, the company provides several services to customers. Every one of these services—except for One-to-One memberships—is free and available to anyone with an Apple device; for certain customer workshops, you can attend without bringing any hardware at all.

PERSONAL SETUP If this is your first computer or iOS device, Apple's Personal Setup service is invaluable, but even Mac and iPhone veterans can take advantage of it. A Specialist will help you unbox your purchase and turn it on (and, in the case of an iOS device, activate it). If you've bought a Mac, Specialists will help you load any software you've purchased along with it, introduce you to the Mac

App Store, and explain how to do a data transfer (if you need to move information from an old computer). If it's an iPad or iPhone, they'll tailor a primer for you based on your own knowledge. Don't know the first thing about swipes versus flicks? Count on a Specialist to break it down.

ONE-TO-ONE TRAINING Though not as well publicized as some of the other Apple Store offerings, One-to-One training may be the most valuable: A set of Cupertino-trained employees are on hand to provide you with solo training on subjects as simple as the Finder or as complex as a Final Cut Pro project.

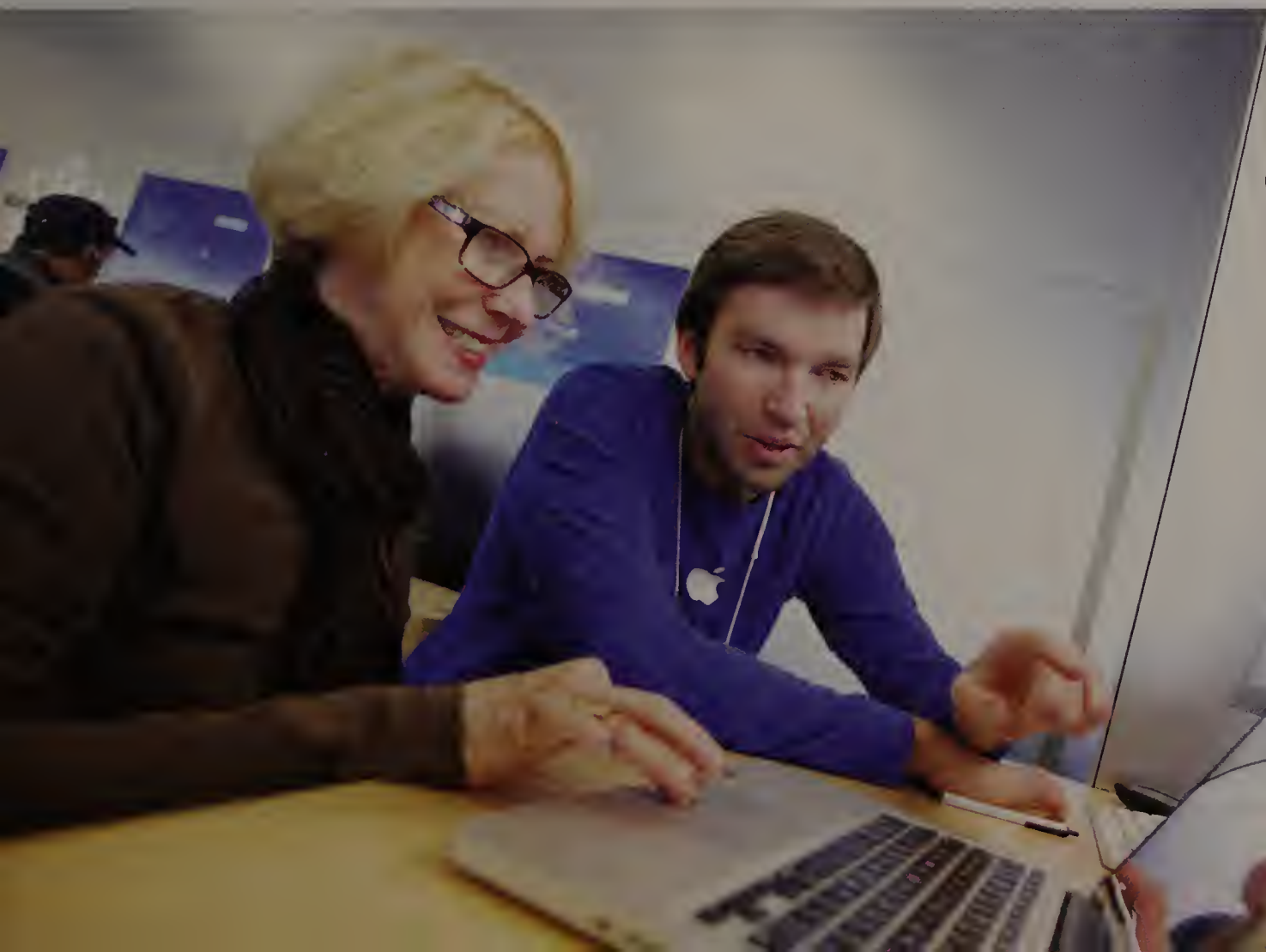
When you purchase a Mac, you'll be offered the chance to purchase a \$99 yearlong One-to-One membership, which provides you with as many 50-minute training sessions and two-hour Personal Project workshops as you can book; training is personalized and runs the gamut of Mac software. One-to-One memberships aren't currently sold with iOS devices, nor are they sold as stand-alone options; you must purchase a new Mac to qualify.

When you buy a membership, you're assigned a default store: You book appointments for what you wish to study; the training revolves around what you want to learn. Those customers who can spare a few hours per week will find that the value of personal interaction far outstrips that of online video tutorials. (One-to-One users get access to some of those, too, through an online portal.)



EXPLORE

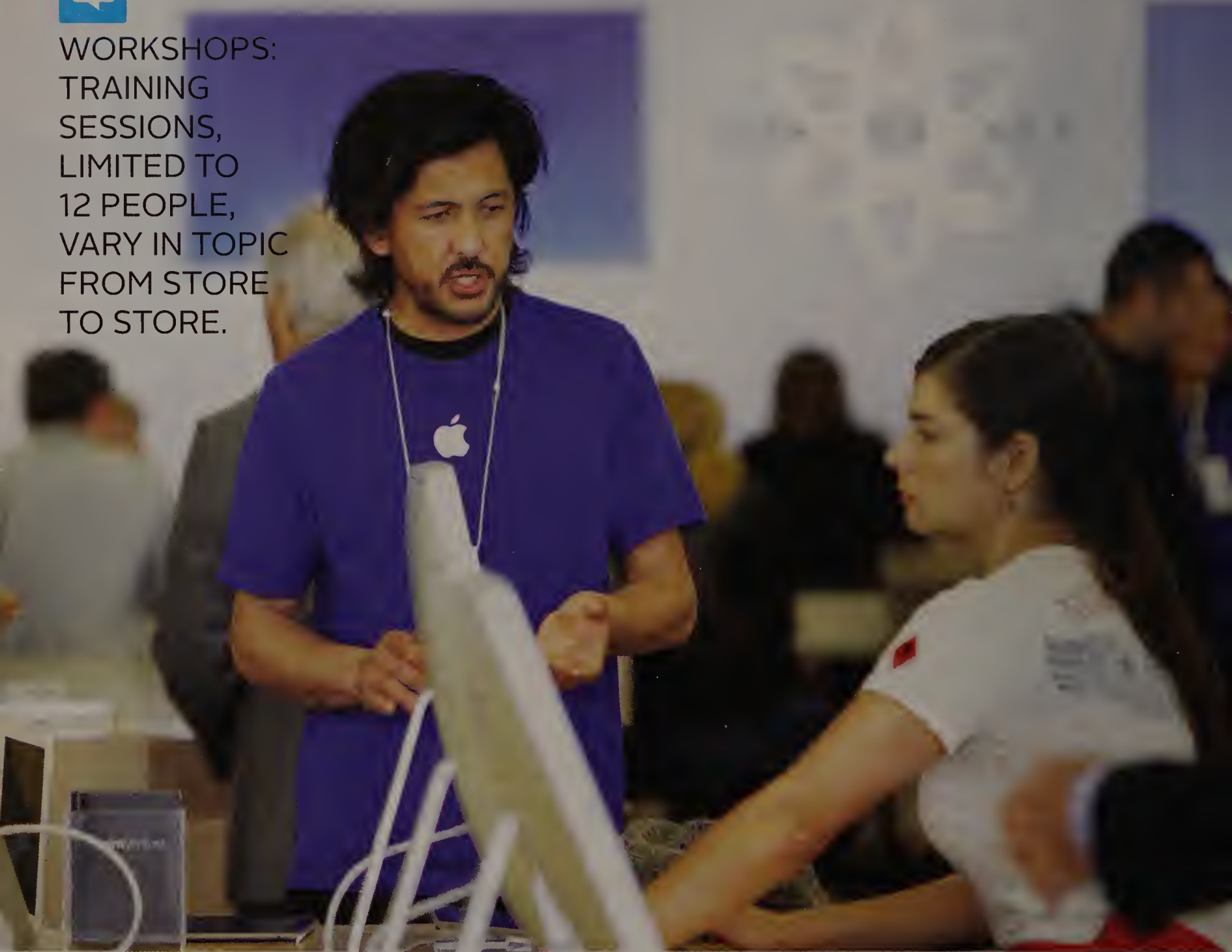
If you visit a store simply to score some free Wi-Fi or take in the scene, don't be worried you'll have to buy something to justify the trip. Employees by and large understand the pull of shiny electronics; they generally won't hover over you to pressure you to exit the store if you want to check your email or test a pair of \$600 Bose speakers with your iPod. The Apple Store I worked in was located in a mall, and we often had employees from other retail outlets come in on their lunch break to read their RSS feeds or play an iPad game or two.



ONE-TO-ONE
TRAINING:
PERSONAL
TUTORIALS
COVER THE
GAMUT
OF MAC
SOFTWARE.



WORKSHOPS:
TRAINING
SESSIONS,
LIMITED TO
12 PEOPLE,
VARY IN TOPIC
FROM STORE
TO STORE.



If you're working on a project—say, building a scrapbook for an anniversary, or a slideshow for someone's wedding—a One-to-One membership gives you access to weekly Personal Projects sessions, in which you and several other members sit down and work with a trainer over a two-hour period. Think of it as a modern-day study hall: Members work with trainers and each other to tackle pieces of their projects. (Sometimes those involved even bring snacks.)

Even while they're out of the store, One-to-One members can keep learning. Apple provides its members with an exclusive website (onetoone.apple.com) where they can see their store's current trainers, change the primary stores they attend, and make or edit reservations. Additionally, Apple offers a breakdown of every available session members can take, along with basic task checklists, a place for notes, related tips, and in-depth video tutorials. The

tutorials don't quite equal the breadth of online video training site Lynda.com, but they still provide ample information for beginners and pros alike.

As a One-to-One member, you can book one Personal Training, one Personal Projects, and one workshop session—but you can't schedule more than one of each kind at a time. That means you can have both a Personal Training and a Personal Projects session on the books, but you can't make three appointments for Personal Training at once. As soon as your appointment ends, you're once again allowed to book another session of that same type. Store employees also frown upon “double sessions”—using two One-to-One memberships to book a trainer's time from 9 a.m. to 10:50 a.m., for instance.

WORKSHOPS Available to both One-to-One members and casual customers, Apple's workshops are for those users who don't necessarily need personalized training but who want to know more

about a specific subject. Workshops are limited to 12 people and topics vary by store, as the staff personally selects them. (If you and your 11 friends want to petition your local store for a monthly workshop on Logic, for instance, it's certainly possible to do so.)

Like One-to-One training sessions, workshops run for an hour, though they're not as personalized; usually they revolve around several features within a program or the operating system, with a short question-and-answer session afterward.

TROUBLESHOOTING AND TRIAGE

It's all well and good to be excited about your new Mac or iOS device as you're taking it home for the first time, or about learning something new. But when it breaks, you don't have to throw up your hands in despair.

Apple first created the Apple Store's Genius Bar as a place for Mac users to ask questions about their

computers; if you stumped the Geniuses on duty, they could reportedly call Cupertino for an answer, using a red emergency phone. As time progressed, the Genius Bar became the home for many things: iOS device resets, sob stories about water damage, Mac repair central, and yes—still a place to get reliable Mac hardware information. (For more, see “Tales from the Genius Bar.”)

MAKING AN APPOINTMENT You can't just walk up to the Genius Bar anymore, and you haven't been able to for a while: As is the case for the other nonsales services Apple provides, you need to make an appointment, which you can book through the Apple Store or through Apple's website (see “Book Early and Often”).

Apple divides the triage of its products into four categories: Mac, iPod, iPhone, and iPad. (If you're having trouble with software or an accessory, choose the hardware it runs on.) Each product has a

For that money, businesses get the following services:

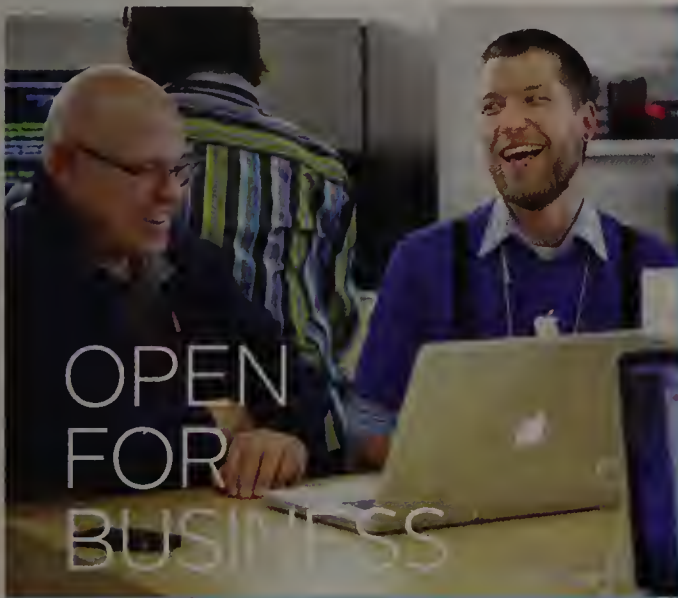
SETUP When a company buys new systems, Apple Store representatives help transfer data from the old computers to the new ones; they also install any new software purchased either online or in-store from Apple.

TRAINING Companies can schedule up to three two-hour in-store training sessions for up to 10 employees each, covering everything from Mac and iOS basics to more-complex topics, such as using Keynote to create presentations. The stores also offer monthly workshops at which employees from Joint Venture companies can get up to speed on Mac basics and IT support issues.

SUPPORT Businesses get their own dedicated Joint Venture sites, which they can use to schedule repair time at the Genius Bar (customers must still take their hardware to the Apple Store) or training workshops. If extensive repairs are needed, the store loans a replacement unit loaded with office software. Businesses can also schedule regular tune-ups of their machines.

It's the ability to ensure quick service that most appeals to Announce Media's Ellis. He estimates that Joint Venture has saved his company \$50,000 it would otherwise have lost in productivity.

One other benefit: While Apple Stores already had the aforementioned “business representatives” to deal with enterprise issues, Apple has beefed up the stores' business teams, making it easier for customers to get enterprise-focused service whenever the Apple Store is open—even for companies that don't have a Joint Venture account.—**JOEL MATHIS**



When Ted Ellis—a desktop support engineer at Announce Media in Mountain View, California—needs help, he can make a same-day appointment at the Apple Store for service. If a laptop will be out of action for a while, he can get a loaner to temporarily replace it. And if a new employee needs some instruction on how to use that laptop, Apple will do the training.

These are all services that Apple Stores now offer under the year-old Joint Venture program, a business-focused service that caters to corporate customers as well as individuals at Apple's retail outlets. Businesses pay a starting annual fee of \$499 to participate in their local Apple Store's Joint Venture program. That fee covers five “systems”—an employee outfitted with a company-issued MacBook, iPhone, and iPad would count as one system—and another \$99 per year for each additional system beyond that.



BOOK EARLY AND OFTEN

You need to schedule One-to-One training sessions, Personal Projects, workshops, and Genius Bar appointments in advance. You can do so on Apple's retail website (apple.com/retail) after selecting your store or through the Apple Store iOS app. One-to-One members can also do so on their personal portal (onetoone.apple.com).

If you plan to stop by the Apple Store for any of these services, it's advisable to make your appointments at least a day in advance for Genius Bar appointments, three to five days in advance for workshops, and one to two weeks out for One-to-One sessions. There are only so many knowledgeable bodies who work at the stores, and their time fills up quickly.

If you're looking to make an appointment on short notice, I've found that sessions and Genius Bar appointments are usually emptiest midweek, around midafternoon—most people are at work, and the stores also tend to have the fewest customers then. On the flip side, the worst time to try to schedule an appointment is in the evenings, especially on the weekends—if you need to make an appointment at those times, make sure to book well in advance.

TALES FROM THE GENIUS BAR

*Editor's Note: Stephen Hackett is a former Apple Store Genius. This is an excerpt from his ebook, **Bartending: Memoirs of an Apple Genius** (Hackett Technical Media, LLC, 2012; geniusmemoirs.com).*

Hard-drive failures, like car crashes, are inevitable. Hard drives have spinning platters and fast-moving arms. Like all things with small moving parts, they are very fragile, almost designed to fail. As you can imagine, Geniuses have to give people bad news about their drives (and their data) all the time.

Her name was Susan. She was a middle-aged woman who had a 15-inch PowerBook with a hard drive that sounded like a tin full of rocks going through a clothes dryer.

Even though I could guess the problem as soon as I heard the grinding noise, I went ahead and went through the motions of troubleshooting it. I booted her PowerBook from an external drive, opened Disk Utility and ... nothing. The drive wouldn't repair and when I attempted to mount it, the machine locked up.

As I began to break the news to her, she started sobbing, and before long she was full-on crying. A little crying wasn't unusual at the Bar, but this was different. I could tell she'd lost more than just a term paper or some work project. Susan was falling apart, right there in the Apple Store.

After she calmed down, Susan explained that her children had been killed in a car accident a few years prior. She had all the photos of her small children on the hard drive. Pictures from her pregnancies were gone. Photos of birthday parties and opening presents on Christmas were gone.

Watching her cry, I realized that she was re-living the pain of losing her children.

Like most Mac users at that time, she had no backup of her files. Even before the days of Time Machine, as a Genius, the natural tendency was to

have a "tough luck" worldview when it came to data loss. It was easy to look at customers who lost data and not feel any pity, figuring that they had gotten themselves into that position by not having a backup of their data.

I operated with that mindset a lot of the time. I think it's fair to say most Geniuses do. Obviously, in a case like Susan's, none of that applied. To feel anything but pity and sadness would have been plain wrong. This woman had already been through so much, and it seemed cruel of the universe to have added this, too.

Susan's appointment was a prime example of just how emotional being a Mac Genius could be at times. On one hand, I knew that she should've backed up the pictures if they were the only copies she had, but on the other, I wanted Apple to cover the cost of the repair and data recovery, just to make her life a little easier. Really, I just wanted to let this woman cry on my shoulder.

Sadly, at that point, my hands were tied. When a hard drive is in such bad shape, the only hope for retrieving the data is to send the drive to a hardware data recovery company. The process has a mixed rate of

success, and is very expensive, but it was Susan's only hope. She didn't even blink when I told her how much it was going to cost her.

Against all odds, Susan's story ended well. The company was able to recover her photos successfully, and she came back in six weeks later for us to help her set up a backup solution for the future.

She was incredibly lucky that her data was recoverable, but I knew it was wrong to frame things in that light. Instead, I celebrated with her at her follow-up appointment. I was genuinely happy that she had the photos of her children back. We were able to connect on a personal level, despite the fact that the Genius Bar was, ultimately, a business. Her story could've been much worse—I'm just thankful it wasn't.—STEPHEN HACKETT



GENIUS BAR



GENIUS BARS:
THEY RUN
ON A TIGHT
SCHEDULE;
MAKE AN
APPOINTMENT
AND BE THERE
ON TIME.



different queue, so you may see an iPad appointment available at 3:15, whereas no Mac appointments are to be found until 5. *Do not* schedule an appointment for the wrong category. Some Geniuses are only certified for iOS devices and can't help you with a Mac hardware or software problem; if you waste their time, they're likely to send you away and force you to rebook for another day.

Once you've picked your category and appointment time, Apple asks you to either sign in with your Apple ID or fill out a form. Whenever possible, sign in with your Apple ID; doing so ties your case records to it, so if you're visiting a different store with a recurring problem, they'll easily be able to see what's wrong.

Before you confirm your appointment, you'll see a place to put additional information. This is shown directly to the Geniuses on deck when you check in, and can often help them diagnose your problem in advance. As such, I recommend that you fill this out with your device's basic symptoms. If you know the problem and just need a part—if, say, you have a broken CD drive—noting it in this field is a good way to speed things up.

THE CHECK-IN Because of the onslaught of appointments—four an hour *per Genius*—the bar runs on a tight schedule, micromanaged to the minute by Apple's software. Apple recommends that you check in for your Genius Bar appointment at least 10 to 15 minutes in advance. It's best to do what

Apple says: If you aren't checked in within 5 minutes of your appointment time, the computer sends a warning to the Genius assigned to your case; if you're late, the computer cancels the appointment outright.

You can check in by speaking to any Specialist on the floor or by using the Apple Store app. The app is really the best way—it sends you a banner alert when the Genius on deck is ready, so you can browse through the store without missing your appointment.

THE APPOINTMENT Genius Bar appointments run 15 to 20 minutes per customer; often Geniuses are working with several customers at once. Rest assured, they aren't ignoring you or trivializing your case. Think of the Genius Bar as something like a trauma ward: Employees want to help as many people as possible, so they have to dart from customer to customer.

Most problems can be resolved during the initial appointment; if it's part related and the store has the part in stock, all but the most difficult repairs can be executed within an hour while you wait. (The trickiest repairs usually take no longer than a day, though a part can take up to a week to arrive, depending on what it is.)

The bottom line: Apple Stores offer a wide array of services, but the best way to get the most from them is to play by the Apple Store rules. Do that and you'll likely walk away a happy customer.

Serenity Caldwell is an associate editor for *Macworld* and a former Apple Store Specialist and trainer.



GET THE APP

You can locate stores, see a workshop and event schedule, check out in-store items, and book appointments for the Genius Bar, workshops, and One-to-One training sessions—all within the Apple Store app (macworld.com/7735). Better still, the app has geolocation capabilities: If you're in the store for an appointment or workshop, the device alerts you when your Genius or instructor is ready to get started.

Stay Connected in Unconnected Places

Before you travel, take a few steps to prepare for paltry Internet access

BY GLENN FLEISHMAN

Many of us whiz our way to beaches and family homes for the summer holidays, carrying a plethora of electronics. Sadly, on arrival you may find that your cousin canceled the cable service, storms downed your DSL, or your cell coverage vanished into a black hole. What can you do? Before leaving home, plan for the worst-case scenario.

Use Your iPhone or iPad as a Personal Hotspot

The best mobile modem is the one you have with you. As you're a *Macworld* reader, you probably own an iPhone, which has included a software-based Personal Hotspot since iOS 4. Apple added Personal Hotspot to the third-generation iPad model with 4G LTE mobile networking, although only the Verizon Wireless model allows you to use it.

Use this to turn your phone into a cellular modem through a process called



tethering. Plug a laptop into the phone's dock connector via USB to access the Internet. You can also use the phone's Internet access by connecting to it through Bluetooth or Wi-Fi. Many smartphone models running Android, BlackBerry, or Windows Phone also offer tethering and a mobile hotspot feature for Wi-Fi.

Tethering isn't a cheap option, but it's not prohibitively expensive, either. The four major U.S. carriers each have tethering or mobile hotspot plans for any phone that can manage it; all but T-Mobile offer these plans for the iPhone models they sell (T-Mobile doesn't offer an iPhone). The iPhone 3GS can only tether via USB and share over Bluetooth. The iPhone 4 and 4S can use those methods plus Wi-Fi. Other phones vary in terms of tethering and wireless sharing methods.

With the 4G-capable iPad, Verizon Wireless doesn't charge extra for use of the Personal Hotspot feature with its 3G and 4G networks: You can use it with

any service plan. At this writing, AT&T doesn't support tethering with the third-generation iPad.

Bring a Mobile Router

You can still use mobile broadband without relying on your phone. This is especially useful if you want to provide access to multiple people, such as members of your family, without being tied to any one person's phone. Cellular routers—the best known of which is the MiFi—relay a cellular data signal over Wi-Fi, creating a portable hotspot. We reviewed the Virgin Mobile version (📶📶📶📶; macworld.com/a/1155485).

You'll find the best prices and have to make less of a contract commitment with Virgin Mobile (a subsidiary of Sprint Nextel) and T-Mobile. T-Mobile sells two 4G mobile hotspot models (macworld.com/7707), which actually work over advanced 3G networks (not 4G LTE) at theoretical rates of up to 42 megabits per



Boost the Signal Increase a weak broadband signal by adding an AirPort Express.

second, or mbps (real-world speeds are lower), in parts of the country where T-Mobile offers those speeds (its highest). The models cost \$125 and \$175 either directly or through Amazon.com. Look for significant rebates on those prices, all the way down to zero with a two-year contract. T-Mobile has prepaid plans, where you buy units of service in the form of broadband passes. T-Mobile offers \$10 for 100MB, which you must use within seven days of activating the pass; \$30 for 1GB over 30 days; and \$50 for 3GB over 30 days. If you run out of data, you can purchase a new pass.

Deal with a Distant Signal

Maybe your parents opted for broadband, but the modem is at one end of the house, and your childhood room, where you're crammed into a bed that's a foot too short for you, is at the other end. Or perhaps you're sleeping in the basement, with wedges of concrete between you and the upstairs Wi-Fi router.

Bring Along a Base Station The easiest way to deal with a weak broadband signal is to carry along a Wi-Fi base station. Apple's \$99 AirPort Express (🔋🔋🔋; macworld.com/a/1132754) is very portable, though a bit of a splurge. Sometimes you can find a refurbished one in the Apple Store (store.apple.com). On a recent check, a previously owned AirPort Express with full warranty cost just \$69.

The Airport Express has a single ethernet port, so you'll probably also need an ethernet switch.

You'll encounter one of two scenarios. If the broadband modem has a built-in ethernet switch, you can just plug the

Wi-Fi base station into one of the ports. If it has only a single LAN ethernet jack, plug an ethernet cable from that jack into your own ethernet switch, and then also plug the base station into your ethernet switch.

Opt for the Electrical System But what if the modem is located at the other end of the house and the signal won't reach? Try *powerline* networking.

This technology pushes networking mojo over home electrical wiring. Because the signal is carried on a particular power phase—don't ask, it gets way too complicated to explain here—you can only expect outlets that share the same circuit breaker to carry the signal efficiently.

Outlets on other circuit breakers might work at just a fraction of the maximum speed—megabits per second, rather than hundreds of megabits. But that may still be faster than the broadband connection.

If you bring a couple of powerline networking adapters, you can get fast Internet connectivity through the house's electrical system. You can get older 85-mbps powerline gear inexpensively (well under \$50 each—you need a pair), while the newest 200-mbps and 500-mbps models are generally pricier. See our review of the \$75 MacWireless 200-mbps Powerline Network Adapter (🔋🔋🔋; macworld.com/a/1136844).

This method requires two adapters: One plugs in near the modem, where you may need an ethernet switch to connect the modem to the powerline adapter; and the other goes near your base station elsewhere in the house.



Personal Hotspot You can connect your laptop to the Internet using the iPhone's Personal Hotspot software.

On the Other Hand, Relax a Little

One of the joys of travel is supposed to be breaking your routines. It's true that many employers want you to stay connected even when you're taking time off, but if you can't find a path to the Internet, take it as a sign—maybe it's time to slow down and hit the off button.

Senior Contributor Glenn Fleishman is the author of the ebook *Take Control of Your 802.11n AirPort Network*, updated for Lion (TidBits Publishing, 2011; www.takecontrolbooks.com).

Klasden Neumann Shoulder Bag

Spigen SGP's \$63 Klasden Neumann shoulder bag (www.spigen.com)—available in charcoal, violet, red, navy (shown here), and gray—isn't the fanciest bag on the market, but it does its job well. This simple, rugged-nylon courier pouch includes a recessed, zippered pocket on the front, and another on the back for miscellaneous objects. The Klasden Neumann is designed to fit laptops up to a 13-inch MacBook Pro. Its main strap consists of a smooth polyester—similar to a high-end seatbelt—with an adjustable hook-and-loop clasped shoulder pad for ergonomic support. The bag's body is curved to sit nicely against your waist, so that even when it's packed full, it doesn't stick out or bounce around. If you're looking for a good all-around shoulder bag, this one is worth checking out.—SERENITY CALDWELL



Should You Care about Pinterest?

If you're a collector or visual thinker, or you own a retail business, the answer is yes

BY ALEXANDRA CHANG

OPINION

Some call it (p)insanity. Others are straight up addicted to pinning. And some people just don't get it. Pinterest (www.pinterest.com) is undeniably the social networking darling of 2012. The site launched in beta mode in March 2010 and remains invite-only. Despite its exclusivity, Pinterest's user base soared past the 10 million mark in December, and, according to Google DoubleClick, now has 31 million worldwide unique visitors per month. But is this site just another blip on the trend-o-meter or something that's worthy of your attention?

From Tacky to Timely

To be honest, Pinterest looked like a messy collage to me when I first saw it.

The site lets you "pin" linked images from the Web onto your personal pinboards, and follow your friends' pinboards as well.

But last fall I decided to decorate my cubicle and needed a place to collect links for all the cubicle toys and products I was considering. Instead of saving notes and URLs in a draft email message as I usually do, I created an "Office stuff" board where I could see everything on a single page.

It was easy to go back, whether on my MacBook or my iOS device, to see where I'd found the Battleship USB hub or my favorite animal calendars.

Since the site is inherently social—you can repin, like, and comment on pins—

my followers and even random Pinterest users would interact with what I posted. I liked collecting my finds, and I liked that it was so easy to give and receive feedback on the site.

Who Is and Isn't Pinning?

The vast majority of people on Pinterest are women—females make up 82 percent of U.S. users. But outside the United States, Pinterest users are often mostly male—men make up 57 percent of users in the United Kingdom, 79 percent in Japan, and 74 percent in France (data from Google AdPlanner.) What's most notable is that Pinterest's users aren't typical early adopters of technology; for example, tech industry



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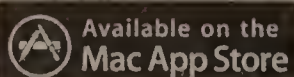
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apps. Both for iOS.

folks and engineers dominate Google+, and two-thirds of its users are male.

"The cool thing is that [Pinterest] tapped into a community that a lot of other sites have not been able to grasp," says Meghan Peters, community manager at Mashable.

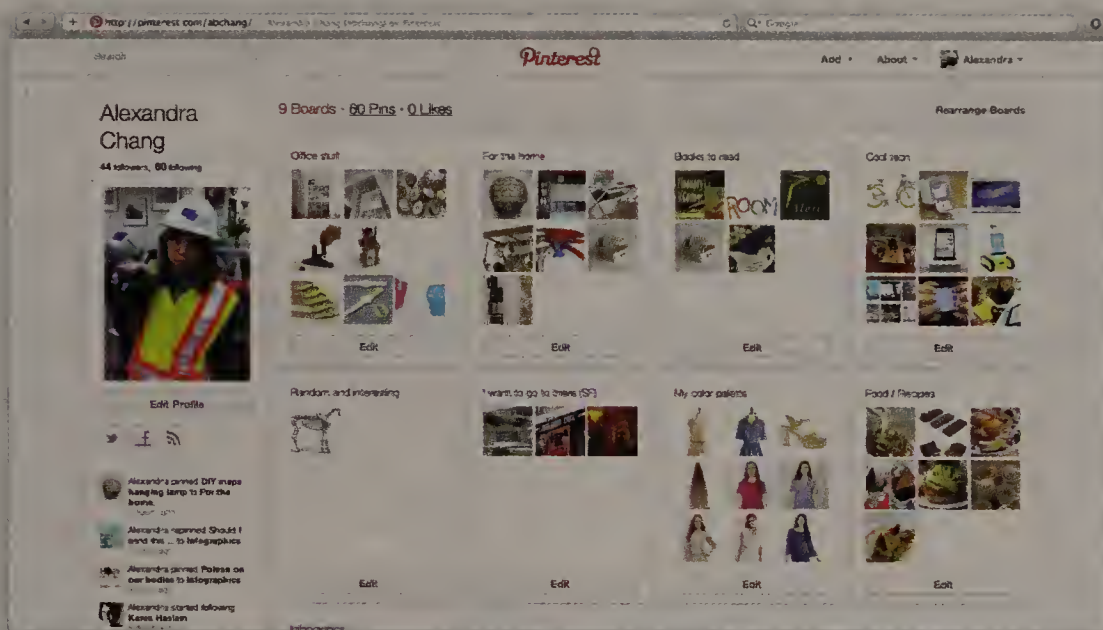
Pinning for Business and Pleasure

"A lot of what gets pinned on Pinterest is aspirational: what could be, what I'm going to have, where I'm going to go," Gartner senior research analyst Jenny Sussin says.

Visual bookmarking isn't a new idea—sites like Ffffound (ffffound.com) offer similar features. Pinterest just does it better (see "Visual Thinking").

If you sell products, Pinterest is also a great place to show them off and connect with customers. From its user content to its design, the site focuses heavily on products and shopping.

Will Pinterest outlast its moment of media fame? My guess is yes. Its



Visual Thinking Pinterest isn't just about sharing—it's also useful as a personal tool. Collect links visually so you can compare objects side by side or keep them for inspiration.

developers need to work out a few kinks, from revenue sources to copyright issues. But the site has gained a lot of very active users. Pinterest doesn't feel like any other social network, mainly

because users are posting more for themselves than for others. And as the site gains more users, and presumably a more diverse crowd, it will better define itself as well.

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Essential Keyboard Shortcuts

Access menu commands across apps with these timesaving tips

BY SHARON ZARDETTO

Computers excel at performing repetitive tasks. So why are you opening the same menus and submenus, looking for the same commands, again and again? OS X lets you assign keyboard shortcuts to menu commands so you can trigger them faster. And you can tailor application shortcuts to your work habits. But a more productive way to use this capability is to set up shortcuts that work everywhere.

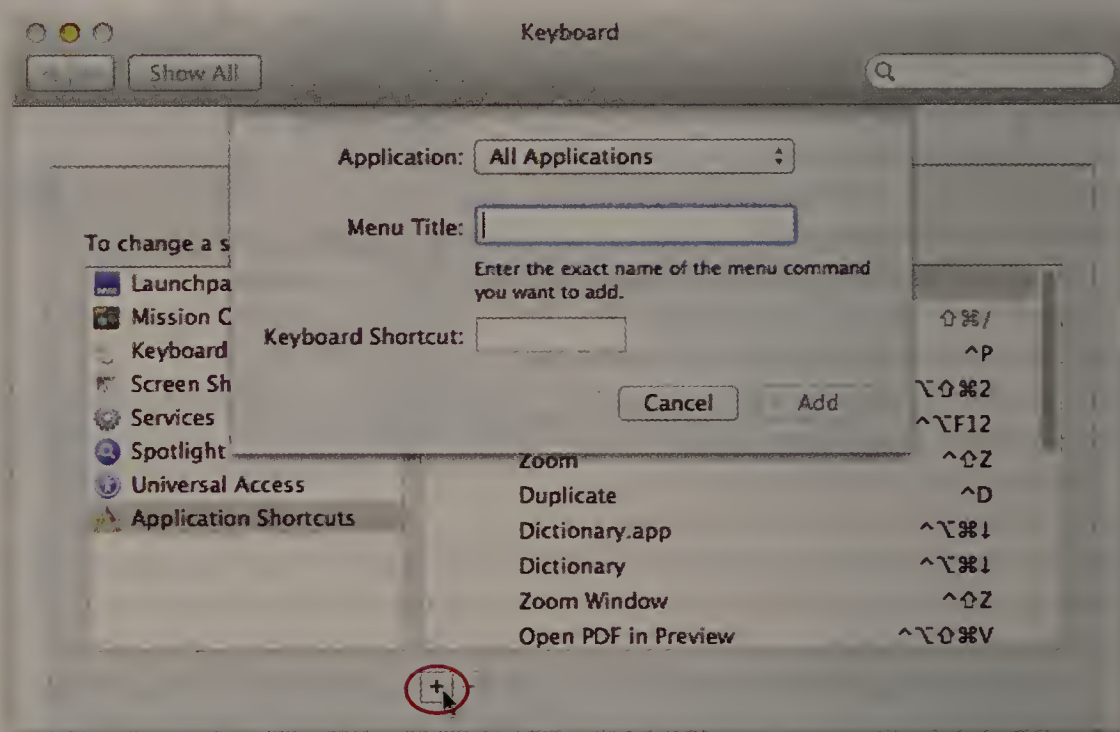
Setting up a systemwide keyboard shortcut is a cinch: In the Keyboard system preference, go to the Keyboard Shortcuts tab. Click Application Shortcuts on the left, and then click the plus-sign button (+) under the list. In the sheet that appears, select All Applications from the Application menu and type the name of the menu command in the Menu Title field. Enter the desired shortcut in the Keyboard Shortcut field and click Add (see “Global Shortcuts”).

A few tips: Type the command exactly as it appears. Capitalization counts. If there's an ellipsis (...) after the command, press Option-semicol (;) to insert it. Typing three periods usually doesn't work. You don't have to remember your shortcuts—they appear in the menus the same way standard shortcuts do.

Print Options at Your Fingertips

You can assign keyboard shortcuts to printing options you use often, even when they're buried in the Print dialog box. If, say, you often save documents and webpages as PDFs, set up a shortcut that triggers the PDF ► Save As PDF command. (Remember to type the shortcut's name into the Menu Title field exactly as it appears in the menu: **Save as PDF...**—and, again, to get the ellipsis, type Option-semicol.)

Once you've done this, you can activate that feature with a keyboard shortcut (say, ⌘-Option-P) after opening the Print dialog box with the shortcut ⌘-P. Although keyboard shortcuts don't work for buttons,



Global Shortcuts Create a global keyboard shortcut in the Keyboard preference pane by clicking the plus-sign button (circled) and choosing All Applications from the resulting sheet.

the PDF button is actually a menu. (For more details on creating shortcuts for PDF options, see “Leopard Keyboard Shortcut Tricks” at macworld.com/7673.)

Assign shortcuts to whichever print options you use the most. Using a shortcut to switch between printers can be especially convenient.

Zoom Windows

You needn't click the green zoom button in a window's top left corner to toggle between a window's default size (usually as large as possible) and the size and position you've specified manually. Most applications have a Window menu with a Zoom or Zoom Window command, but no keyboard shortcut. Assign the same shortcut to both commands so you can use them across many apps. I find that Control-Shift-Z is the combo least likely to conflict with assigned zoom- or undo-related commands in the applications I use.

Unminimize App Windows

Several Apple applications have either a single window or a single main window

from which you can open other windows (think iPhoto, Font Book, iTunes, iCal, Address Book, and Mail). If you minimize this window before you leave the program, no window will show when you return to the program. You can remember application-specific keyboard commands to recover the window or to select it from the Windows menu. Or you can make a shortcut that unminimizes the main window in any of these apps.

This requires some work, because the command in each program's Window menu differs. In the Keyboard Shortcuts pane, click Application Shortcuts, and then choose the application's name from the Application menu. Type the window's name in the Menu Title field (in Mail, the name is **Message Viewer**; in iTunes, it's **iTunes**; in iCal, it's **iCal**; and so on). Set the same key combo for each one. I use Control-W.

Sharon Zardetto is the author of *Take Control of Spotlight for Finding Anything on Your Mac* (TidBits Publishing, 2011).

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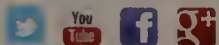
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REVIEWS

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HARDWARE

Epson Stylus NX430 Small-in-One All-in-One Printer ▴

A small inkjet multifunction printer with an overlong name, the \$100 Epson Stylus NX430 Small-in-One All-in-One Printer is well suited to tight spaces, and it offers excellent output quality and ease of use. The unit's main drawbacks are its merely average ink costs, pedestrian speeds at the default settings, and lack of automatic duplexing. Epson equips its printers with more print-quality modes than other vendors do. The Fine output is about as good as you'll get from an inkjet, with deep blacks and sharp text. Color graphics exhibit excellent detail on both plain and glossy paper. Unfortunately, the Stylus NX430's speed doesn't quite measure up to its print quality. Full-page color photos print at only 0.28 ppm—slothful even by entry-level inkjet standards. Ink costs for the NX430 are about average if you use high-yield supplies. The 415-page black tank costs \$18.49, which works out to 4.45 cents per page; and cyan, magenta, and yellow cost \$17.09 per color or 3.45 cents per page. That puts the price of a four-color page at about 14.8 cents.

🔧🔧🔧; \$100; Epson; www.epson.com

LaCie 2big Thunderbolt Series ▸

The LaCie 2big Thunderbolt Series is an external desktop RAID system that uses two 3.5-inch, 7200-rpm drives preconfigured as RAID 0, but you can reconfig-

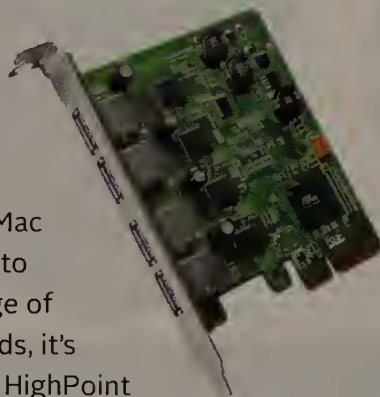


ure them as RAID 1 or JBOD using OS X's Disk Utility. The 2big has a pair of Thunderbolt ports, which makes the drive easier to incorporate in a Thunderbolt daisy chain. Unfortunately, it has no other ports, such as FireWire or USB, so it can't be used with older Macs. To see how fast the Thunderbolt 2Big is, we ran a series of tests with the 6TB version attached to a 17-inch MacBook Pro with a 2.4GHz Core i7 processor, an internal 250GB flash-storage drive, and 4GB of RAM. When copying a 10.7GB file from the internal SSD to the 2big, we saw write times of 217.5 MBps. When copying a 10.7GB folder with 7427 files, we saw a write speed of 191.7 MBps. When copying the 10.6GB file and 10.7GB folder back to the SSD, we encountered read speeds of 182.8 MBps and 148.6 MBps, respectively. With 6TB of storage and fast Thunderbolt read and write speeds, the LaCie 2Big Thunderbolt Series drive offers good performance for backup and video processing.

🔧🔧🔧; \$799; LaCie; www.lacie.com

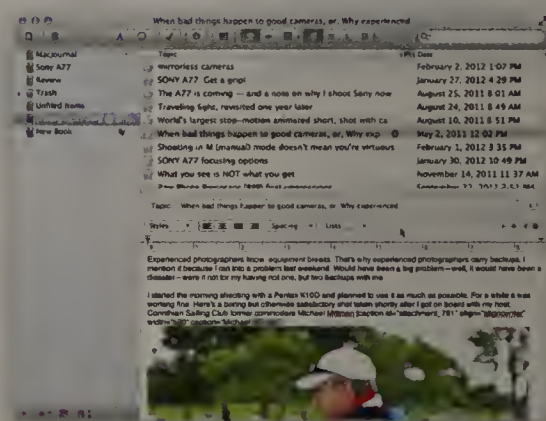
RocketU Quad USB 3.0 for Mac ▸

If you have a Mac Pro and want to take advantage of USB 3.0 speeds, it's now possible. HighPoint Technologies grants your system USB 3.0 compatibility with the RocketU Quad USB 3.0 for Mac, a PCI Express card with four USB 3.0 ports. The RocketU works with most USB 3.0 drives available and gives a speed boost to USB 2.0 drives. The best thing about the card is that it functions with all sorts of external hard drive brands (though it's incompatible with Seagate drives of 3TB or higher capacity). Other USB 3.0 cards we've tested operate only with drives from specific companies. To



test the card, we used it with eight different USB 3.0 drives, ranging from portable and desktop hard drives to solid-state drives (SSDs). All of them mounted and were available for use on our Mac Pro. We saw a dramatic boost in drive performance when we switched from USB 2.0 on the Mac Pro to the RocketU's USB 3.0. SSDs really took off when connected to the RocketU, tripling their performance. The RocketU also lets you set up a set of external drives as a RAID array. It isn't Thunderbolt, but considering the wide availability of USB 3.0 drives on the market, this card would be a great investment for a Mac Pro owner.

🔧🔧🔧; \$125; HighPoint Technologies; www.hptmac.com



SOFTWARE

MacJournal 6 ▴

MacJournal 6 isn't trying to replace Microsoft Word, at least for business or academic writing: It doesn't include change tracking, footnotes, endnotes, or indexing. Nevertheless, as a writing tool, this program is versatile, capable, and refreshingly simple. MacJournal targets users who need to keep daily journals for personal or business reasons. It assumes that you will not be collaborating with others and allows you to password-protect and encrypt journals and entries. The program can publish to blogging services like Blogger, LiveJournal, Tumblr, WordPress, and more. It's especially useful if you blog at more than

one service and want to track what you've said. A special green-on-black editing mode hides the panes showing your journals and entries to enable you to concentrate. You can also assign tags, labels, and moods to entries, and use those to sort them.

★★★★½; \$40; Mariner Software;
www.marinersoftware.com



Merlin 2 ▲

Merlin 2 is a versatile project-management application that can help you manage anything from a simple to-do list to a full-scale, multitiered project that spans several months or years. If you've been using another program, such as the Windows-only Microsoft Project, Merlin 2 can import your documents without a problem. The application can export project documents in a number of formats, including Microsoft Project, XML, and OPML. It also lets you provide editable versions of your projects to people who have no project-management tools at all. If you want to add sharing features, you need to have an upgraded license, but the benefits are immense. The Merlin Server system preference (\$1000) allows you to set up a stand-alone project repository that anyone with a copy of Merlin 2—including any current Merlin iOS app—can access. Turn on Web sharing (\$130) for a project, and anyone with a recent Web browser can view and edit the project you've shared with them. Merlin 2 is a best-of-breed project-management app that's capable, versatile, and powerful. It offers a compelling set of tools that give project managers an excellent reason to forgo Windows virtualization, drop Microsoft Project, and manage everything they do using a Mac.

★★★★; \$199; ProjectWizards;
www.projectwizards.net

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HARD DRIVES

Desktop

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE ^A	TYPE	FIND CODE ^B
AV Drive www.caldigit.com	★★★★½	\$189 (1TB)	USB 3.0	6757
iT1 Dock www.istoragepro.com	★★★★	\$329 (2TB)	quad interface	5843
SoloPro (pictured) www.iosafe.com	★★★★	\$270 (1TB)	USB 2.0 and 3.0	7136



HARD DRIVES

Portable

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE ^A	TYPE	FIND CODE ^B
ioSafe Rugged Portable SSD www.iosafe.com	★★★★½	\$499 (120GB)	single interface	7559
Mercury Elite-AL Pro Dual mini (pictured) eshop.macsales.com	★★★★	\$180 (640GB)	triple interface	7256
My Passport Essential www.wdc.com	★★★★	\$90 (500GB)	single interface	7521



INPUT DEVICES

Keyboards, Mice, Pen Tablets

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE ^A	TYPE	FIND CODE ^B
Intuos5 Pen Tablet intuos.wacom.com	★★★★½	\$349	pen tablet	7695
Magic Trackpad www.apple.com	★★★★	\$55	trackpad	6436
Wireless Solar Keyboard K750 (pictured) www.logitech.com	★★★★	\$62	keyboard	7560



PRINTERS

Laser

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE ^A	TYPE	FIND CODE ^B
5130cdn (pictured) www.dell.com	★★★★½	\$1024	LED, color	6009
C544DN www.lexmark.com	★★★★½	\$350	LED, color	4356
Color LaserJet CP2025dn www.hp.com	★★★★	\$365	LED, color	4823



PRINTERS

Multifunction

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE ^A	TYPE	FIND CODE ^B
Color LaserJet CM1312nfi www.hp.com	★★★★	\$350	laser	5183
OfficeEdge Pro5500 (pictured) www.lexmark.com	★★★★	\$400	inkjet	7694
Pixma MG6120 www.usa.canon.com	★★★★	\$118	inkjet	7254

^A All prices are the best current prices taken from a PriceGrabber survey of retailers at press time. ^B In a browser's address field, typing a find code after macworld.com/ takes you to a product's review or overview.

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White House Proposes Online Privacy Rights

The White House unveiled a plan to create a “bill of rights” for consumer privacy on the Internet, and announced that Google, Microsoft, and Yahoo have agreed to comply when consumers choose to protect their online tracking habits. The Bill of Rights is part of a 62-page PDF document describing a framework for protecting privacy on the Internet (find it at macworld.com/7709).

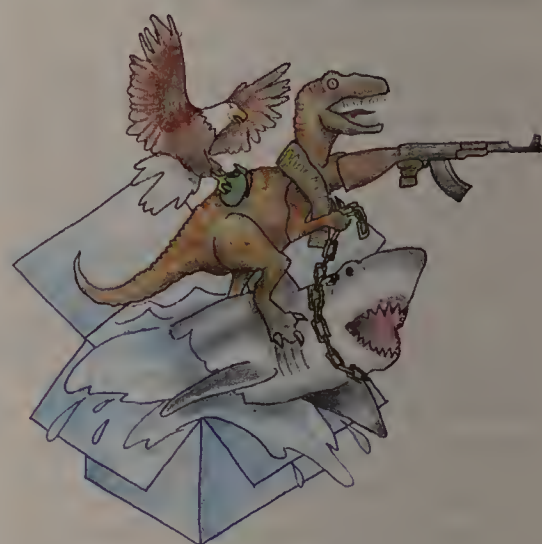
Among those rights are the following:

- > Consumers have a right to exercise control over what personal data companies collect from them and how they use it.
- > Consumers have a right to easily understandable and accessible information about companies’ privacy and security practices.
- > Consumers have a right to expect that companies will collect, use, and disclose personal data in ways that are consistent with the context in which consumers provide the data.
- > Consumers have a right to secure handling of personal data.
- > Consumers have a right to access and correct data in usable formats in a manner that is appropriate to the data’s sensitivity.—JOHN P. MELLO JR.

Spammers Subvert Dropbox’s URL Shortener

That shortened Dropbox (www.dropbox.com) link may not be what it seems. Spammers have been redirecting shortened links from the file-sharing and synchronization service to websites selling questionable pharmaceuticals, according to security vendor Symantec. Dropbox’s URL-shortening service is used to create links to content in the service’s public folder. Spammers create shortened links to images that contain another link to online pharmaceutical retailers, wrote Nick Johnston, a senior software engineer at Symantec.

Spammers often co-opt URL-shortening services since people can’t immediately tell where the links will take them. Lately spammers have also been using open-source software to create their own shortening services, in order to redirect users to nefarious sites. At press time, Dropbox had disabled its link shortening feature.—JEREMY KIRK



Microsoft Says OnLive Is Improperly Licensed


OnLive (desktop.onlive.com), a cloud computing and video game services company that recently began offering hosted Windows and Office software remotely from its servers to iPad and Android tablet users, is in violation of Microsoft licensing rules, according to Joe Matz, Microsoft’s corporate vice president of worldwide licensing and pricing.

Matz claims customers can have a partner host Windows 7 in a virtual desktop infrastructure for them, but each customer must have licensed the software directly from Microsoft. “The hosting hardware must be dedicated to, and for the benefit of, the customer, and may not be shared by or with any other customers of that partner,” he wrote in a blog post. Partners aren’t allowed to provide Windows 7 as a hosted client or Office as a service through Windows 7. “Office may only be provided as a service if it is hosted on Windows Server and Remote Desktop Services,” he stated.

Gartner analyst Michael Silver commented that Microsoft’s licensing hasn’t kept up with technological advances, so partners find themselves able to provide certain features and functionality that are currently forbidden or that are complicated to deliver from a contractual standpoint. “Microsoft definitely needs to have their licensing catch up with technology. There’s no doubt about that,” Silver said, adding that Microsoft also needs to make sure that it is keeping up with customer expectations.

—JUAN CARLOS PEREZ





Beautiful things
are meant to be together.

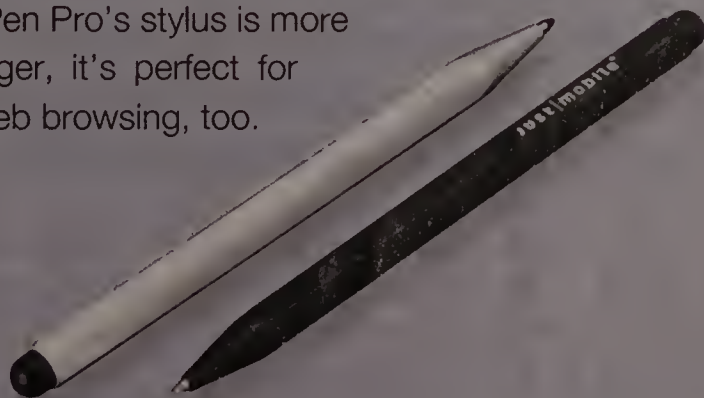
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The iPad stylus with real ink

Just Mobile AluPen Pro™ redefines the pen for the 21st Century, combining an iconic iPad stylus with a refillable ballpoint.

Sculpted from aluminum, the perfectly weighted AluPen Pro™ features a high-quality, retractable ballpoint pen at one end, and a replaceable soft rubber nib at the other. So you can seamlessly switch between jotting notes on paper and sketching ideas on a tablet.

And because the AluPen Pro's stylus is more precise than your finger, it's perfect for typing, gaming and web browsing, too.



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PLAYLIST

Everything You Need to Know about iPods, iTunes, and Mac-based Entertainment

A Sharper Image

Apple TV's set-top box adds 1080p support

BY JASON SNELL

REVIEW

The new model of the Apple TV looks and acts exactly like the previous model, and I'm here to report that it's much like its predecessor—with one major exception.

That difference is its support for native 1080p video, as streamed from iTunes, over the Internet, or via AirPlay from a third-generation iPad. Not all HD video is of the 1080p variety. In the various Apple TV menus, the trick is to look for the HD symbol on a TV episode or movie and then see if it says "1080p" next to it. If it doesn't, then the video is only 720p.

A few of my purchased movies and TV shows are in 1080p, but a lot of them aren't—presumably Apple will continue to upgrade its content library and make deals with content providers, so the number of 1080p videos should increase over time. If you're on a slow Internet connection, you can downgrade the quality of the video you rent or stream from iTunes.

The starring feature of the new Apple TV is its support for native 1080p video, streamed from iTunes, over the Internet, or via AirPlay.

In the iTunes Store section of the Apple TV's Settings app, the Video Resolution item lets you toggle between 1080p, 720p, and standard definition.

Our office Internet connection had no problem streaming a 1080p episode of *Community*, but it hesitated at streaming an episode of *The Walking Dead*. Perhaps the Apple TV was just squeamish, but



Updated Interface Along with the new Apple TV, Apple also introduced a new user interface.

it's good to keep in mind that 1080p videos are large and that you need a fast connection to stream them. (Apple says you'll want at least an 8-megabits-per-second connection.) The *Community* episode looked great, although I'm

higher-resolution videos. The star of the show is Apple TV Software 5.0, which is also available as a free update for the 720p model.

The New Interface

The first time you start up an Apple TV running the latest software, it's obvious that Apple has changed the user interface considerably. There's still a row of images across the top of the screen, representing whatever content you've selected below; but large iOS-style icons, one for each content source, have replaced the drop-down textual menus for Movies, TV Shows, Music, Internet, Computers, and Settings.

You navigate these icons—using the Apple Remote or the Remote iOS app—just as you did the previous menus, pressing the arrow buttons (on the

not sure I could have detected the difference between the 1080p version and a 720p version.

Beyond support for 1080p, there's not a lot to say about this new Apple TV. It's basically the second-generation 720p model, but with a faster processor and double the RAM (from 256MB to 512MB) to support playback of

Apple Remote) or swiping your iOS device's screen (in the app) to move the selection up, down, left, or right; and then pressing Select (on the Apple Remote) or tapping the screen (in the app) to open the selected item. Pressing Menu takes you back up a level or, in some screens, brings up the poster row (for movies and TV shows) or cover row (for music) at the top of the screen. From a row, another press of Menu takes you up a level in the menus.

Now, instead of having to navigate to the Internet menu to access Netflix, NBA, NHL, WSJ Live, YouTube, Vimeo, Podcasts, Photo Stream, MobileMe, Flickr, and Radio, each of those items is accessible with a single click from the home screen. Similarly, whereas movie trailers were buried at the bottom of the Movies menu, there's now a big Trailers button—which looks exactly like Apple's Trailers app for iOS—right on the home screen.

The new software also introduces a few smaller changes. When browsing your iTunes Match music, you now see options for Genius Playlists and Genius Mixes. These options were previously available only when you were streaming music from a computer on your local network. (These iTunes Match options came to iOS devices with the iOS 5.1 update.) Another welcome addition is a Restart option (Settings ► General ► Restart), which saves you from having to unplug your Apple TV, or remember a special Apple Remote button combination, to restart it. And under Settings ► Screen Saver ► Photos, there's a new set

of nature photos from *National Geographic*. Plus, both the new and previous Apple TVs (along with iOS devices and any computers running iTunes) can now redownload movies purchased from the iTunes Store in the past.

The 5.0 update is an overall improvement, and I like to see Apple continuing to experiment with what makes the best television set interface. Creating a complex device that users can control with just a little infrared clicker is hard! But every revision of the Apple TV software does show that someone at Apple is learning the hard lessons taught by the previous version.

The Content Question

If I have any complaints about the Apple TV, it's the lack of a more robust community of third-party content providers. Apple's got this App Store thing down. Why not provide a third-party developer kit and an app store for other purveyors of Internet content? It would only broaden the device's appeal, and it would make a dent in one of the major advantages Roku's line of video players has.

But, as Senior Editor Christopher Breen advises, it's best to view the Apple TV as a portal. It connects your HDTV to iOS devices, to computers on your local network, to iTunes in the cloud, and to a limited collection of third-party content sources selected by Apple.

Macworld's Buying Advice

At \$99, the third-generation Apple TV continues to be as excellent a value as the previous model—and now it supports higher-quality video, too. That's a good thing. If you have the previous model, however, the decision to upgrade comes down to whether the difference in quality between two high-definition formats is important (and noticeable) enough to you.

Jason Snell is Macworld's editorial director. Senior Editor Dan Frakes also contributed to this story.

★★★★: \$99; Apple; www.apple.com



Mirror, Mirror The Apple TV lets you mirror your iPhone 4S's or third-generation iPad's screen on your HDTV.



No Refunds for Zediva Customers

BY LEX FRIEDMAN

If this were a movie, it wouldn't have a happy ending. Zediva, the now-shuttered scrappy upstart that attempted to offer cheap online movie rentals in a novel way, has announced that it won't be refunding money to its customers.

Zediva streamed DVDs without studio limitations like multiweek new-release lockouts and rental-only discs that lacked any extras. The company's clever trick was that it streamed the DVD's contents directly to your Mac, giving you remote control of one of its hundreds of DVD players.

The downside to Zediva's unique approach was that courts deemed it illegal. The Motion Picture Association of America filed suit against Zediva in April 2011; by August, a U.S. district court judge had issued a preliminary injunction to stop the company from streaming movies. If that action effectively rendered Zediva a zombie, the company received the death blow in November 2011, when the injunction became permanent, forcing Zediva to close its virtual doors for good.

After spending money on legal fees and paying creditors, the company announced that there was not enough money left to reimburse customers. As the company put it, "The prorated amount due to you is less than cost of processing your payment." What little money is left will be awarded to three charities. So it seems the only Zediva-related streaming available to the company's former customers relates to tears.

Seven Ways to Improve the iTunes Store

BY KIRK MCELHEARN

The iTunes Store is the most popular retail outlet in the United States for buying music, and it has become a digital bazaar, selling everything from TV shows and movies to ebooks and audiobooks. But Apple could improve its usability in a number of ways. Here are seven ideas for making the iTunes Store a better experience for customers.

1: Add Tabs

Tabs are practical. I almost always open webpages in tabs rather than in new windows, so the pages all stay grouped in a single window. Why is it that when I select a link in the iTunes Store to view an album or movie, I constantly have to click the back arrow to return to the previous page?

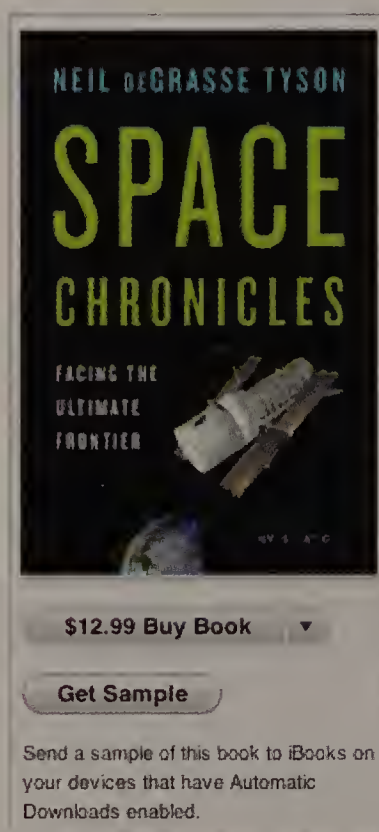
The iTunes Store is just a bunch of webpages displayed within the iTunes application. There's no reason why Apple couldn't add tabs so you could, for example, open new tabs for a few albums you want to look at, and close them when you've seen what you want or sampled some of the tracks.

2: Improve Dragging Items to Playlists

You used to be able to easily drag all sorts of items from the iTunes Store to a playlist. You could create a wish list to store a list of movies you wanted to rent, say. Or you could make a playlist and gift it to a friend.

Unfortunately, Apple has changed the way playlists and the iTunes Store work together. While you can click and drag *some* items from the Store to playlists, the process isn't very well designed.

You can only drag individual songs (but not albums) and TV show episodes (but not seasons) when viewing those items in a list. Want to add an entire album to a playlist? No dice unless you want to take the time to add each individual track. (At least you can still gift those playlists.)



Book Samples

Reading previews of books requires that you switch from your Mac to an iOS device.

4: Create Better New-Releases Sections

When I visit the iTunes Store, mostly for music, I see a main page in each category, and that page doesn't change for a week. Even after that week, much of what was featured one week stays on the main page for several more weeks.

I would love to be able to browse new releases—not just the 25 titles I see when I click on the New Release Bin link in the jazz or classical music sections, or the limited lists visible from the Just Added link on the main music page, but *all* the new releases, sorted by genre.

5: Display Book Samples

OK, Apple, I understand that you don't want to have iBooks on the Mac. But when I'm browsing the Books section of the iTunes Store, I should at least be able to read the book sample on my Mac. It's the only type of content I can't preview on the Mac. Rather than go through the hassle of downloading samples to my iPad, I often visit Amazon to check out samples of books—and therefore I often end up buying from Amazon instead, because I don't have to jump through hoops.

6: Offer Daily Specials

The iTunes Store is boring. Things change just once a week, on Tuesdays. Come on, Apple, spice things up a bit. Get users excited. Instead of just offering the occasional discount and one 99-cent movie rental every week, have specials every day in different categories. Get the buzz flowing. People will talk and tweet, sending links to their friends for \$5 albums and 99-cent movie rentals. I know I would.

7: Get Rid of Ping

I don't know anyone who thinks Ping was a good idea. Let it go, Apple.

3: Overhaul Search Options

The iTunes Store's search capabilities pale in comparison to Amazon.com's. For basic searches, you use the search field in the top right corner of the iTunes window. But you can't choose the *type* of content you're looking for: Your search results show music, movies, books, apps, and anything else Apple has to offer.

You should be able to skip a step by choosing what type of content to search for in the search box before pressing Return. Second, search results should be sortable. Wouldn't it be nice to sort by, say, most recent, or by customer review, or by some other criterion?

The somewhat hidden Power Search feature does allow you to specify certain criteria, but it could be better. Why not add—at least for music—the name of the record label? For classical music, let users search by a work's title. And a search by year for all items could be useful (you can only search by year for movies).



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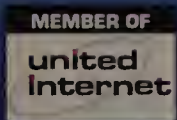
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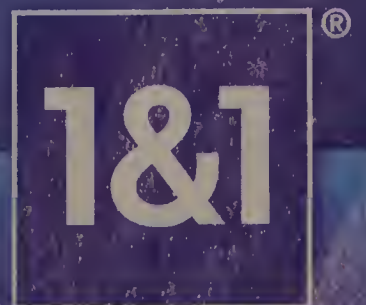
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REVIEWS

Home Entertainment Hardware,
Software, and Accessories

HARDWARE

**Audyssey
Audio Dock
Air** ▶

Audyssey's Audio Dock Air is, simply put, a black, upright, rectangular slab of an AirPlay speaker. Featuring some interesting physical design choices, it also generates impressive sound. The Audio Dock's rear panel includes a port for plugging in the system's power brick, a 1/8-inch (3.5mm) auxiliary-input jack for connecting an audio source directly, and a pairing button. In our testing, setup was



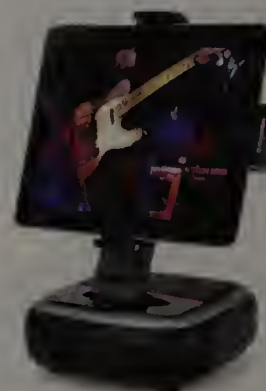
easy and AirPlay playback worked great. We successfully streamed music from a MacBook Pro and a trio of iOS devices with nary a stutter over many hours of listening. You're not going to hear a wide stereo field with a speaker of this shape, but we were satisfied with the Audio Dock's ability to fill even big rooms with sound. Even at full (loud) volume, music playback was crisp and distortion-free.

★★★★; \$400; Audyssey Laboratories;
www.audyssey.com

Scosche Industries BassDock ▶

Scosche Industries' bassDock is a stand and speaker dock for all three generations of the iPad. The adjustable dock cradle holds the iPad for convenient viewing while also charging it and grabbing the iPad's

audio for playback through the bassDock's built-in speakers. The bare cradle fits the original iPad perfectly. If you have an iPad 2 or a third-generation iPad, however, you'll need to attach a few included plastic adapters to the cradle. Once you've slipped your iPad into place, it stays snug and secure. The bassDock employs a pair of 1.6-inch stereo speakers, along with a single 3-inch woofer. The bassDock's audio quality is good, but—as the system's name may suggest—it emphasizes the bass a bit too much for our taste. That bass isn't room-shaking, but it's big and heavy and in your face, so it tends to dominate the



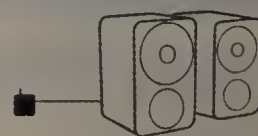
NuForce Air DAC wireless audio streamer



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With Air DAC,
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active speakers

uTX Transmitter

iPod, iPhone, iPad

**iTX Transmitter**

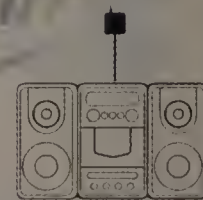
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midrange and treble sounds. That said, we were impressed with the speaker's overall volume and auditory muscle.

🔊🔊½; \$150; Scosche; www.scosche.com



Tely Labs TelyHD △

Although Skype video chat has become a popular tool, the webcams on computers don't really lend themselves to group chat. The telyHD from Tely Labs addresses the need for family-friendly videoconferencing with a Skype-enabled network device that doesn't use a computer at all. It takes advantage of your HDTV's big screen and bundles a webcam (with a microphone and speaker) that can capture high-definition images of several people seated on a living-room couch. At \$250, the telyHD is less expensive than some other living-room

videoconferencing systems. Even more important, the telyHD communicates with any Skype client. The telyHD needs to

deliver better image quality, but it's certainly a promising start.

🔊🔊½; \$250; Tely Labs; www.tely.com

iPods: Current Lineup

PRODUCT	SPECS	RATING	PRICE ^A	DISPLAY	PERFORMANCE	FIND CODE ^B
iPod Classic	160GB	🔊🔊🔊	\$249	2.5-inch color	36 hours of music playback; 6 hours of video playback	S262
iPod Touch	8GB	🔊🔊🔊½	\$199	3.5-inch color (Retina)	40 hours of music playback; 7 hours of video playback	65S3
	32GB	🔊🔊🔊½	\$299	3.5-inch color (Retina)	40 hours of music playback; 7 hours of video playback	65S4
	64GB	🔊🔊🔊½	\$399	3.5-inch color (Retina)	40 hours of music playback; 7 hours of video playback	65S5
iPod Nano	8GB	🔊🔊🔊½	\$129	1.5-inch color	24 hours of music playback; 5 hours of video playback	65S1
	16GB	🔊🔊🔊½	\$149	1.5-inch color	24 hours of music playback; 5 hours of video playback	65S2
iPod Shuffle	2GB	🔊🔊🔊	\$49	none	15 hours of music playback	65S0

^A All prices are Apple's prices. ^B In a browser's address field, typing a find code after macworld.com/ takes you to a product's review or overview.



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Adobe Creative Suite 6 or Creative Cloud?

Artists and designers must decide whether to purchase software or buy into new subscriptions

BY JACKIE DOVE

Adobe has its head in the cloud—the online cloud where creative projects go for viewing, syncing, and collaboration—and it wants artists and designers to be there right alongside it. That's because Adobe now views its new subscription-based cloud service—called Creative Cloud—as its primary vehicle for delivering software, social networking, training, and community exchange.

With the planned rollout of its Creative Suite 6 package of applications for creative professionals well under way, Adobe has now linked this major product line (which includes updates to Photoshop, InDesign, and Premiere Pro) to its new cloud strategy. Not only has Adobe announced CS6 simultaneously with the new Creative Cloud subscription service, but CS6 and its companion apps are the cornerstone of that offering. Essentially, Creative Cloud is Creative Suite 6 with benefits.

Suite or Cloud: Your Choice

That poses a major dilemma for creative pros: Should they stick with the tradi-



mobile devices. Eventually, it will also offer tools for social networking and software training.

Meeting these new challenges with desktop tools alone is not going to cut it. "You can't just wrap up everything in a box and ship it on a disk—that's not the way it works because specs and standards change rapidly," says Scott Morris, senior

of its Touch tablet apps, and its Digital Publishing Suite Single Edition for iPad. The Single Edition allows freelance designers and small companies to create one-off titles in InDesign for sale and distribution via Apple's App Store.

The boxed Creative Suite 6, which ships within a month or so after the April 23 announcement, will offer familiar choices targeted to designers, Web developers, and videographers: Design Standard, a new Design/Web Premium, Production Premium, and Master Collection. Updates of all of the apps offer new features, improvements, and bug fixes.

"We will continue to offer Creative Suite, just [as in] the past, and Creative Cloud at the same time," says Morris. "People can buy CS6 as a perpetual license. However, Cloud customers get all of the CS6 apps as part of the membership, plus a bunch of services that help tie all these things together."

Creative Suite 6 and its companion apps are the cornerstone of the Creative Cloud subscription service; it's CS6 with benefits.

tional software purchasing model that they know, or take Adobe's advice and go with the new Creative Cloud?

Creative Cloud includes new products and services, adds features as they become available, and provides resources to assist designers in defining effective workflows, especially for publishing to

marketing director of Adobe's digital media solutions. "The subscription-based model lets us deliver innovation the moment it's ready." Though Adobe will still offer the boxed Creative Suite, the company now promotes Creative Cloud.

The initial release of Creative Cloud includes 20GB of online storage, some

Breaking the Upgrade Cycle

With Creative Cloud, Adobe also attempts to address pricing concerns. While users have questioned Creative Suite's high prices and rapid upgrade schedule, Creative Cloud is priced to move. Creative Cloud will be available initially to individual designers and artists for \$50 per month, and later on to creative teams for \$70 per month, based on a yearly subscription.

With a subscription, you get access to the entire Creative Suite 6 Master Collection for both Mac and Windows; seamless syncing between the cloud, your computer, and your mobile devices; Web hosting and Typekit Web fonts services; the Digital Publishing Suite, Single Edition; any mobile Touch apps available for the iPad; and, eventually, community services such as social networking, training, and support. Team subscribers get specific features such as collaborative workspaces and IT controls. Users who need more than 20GB of online space can purchase it.

The software component of Creative Cloud also offers subscribers nonsuite programs such as Adobe's Edge, Muse, and Lightroom. Adobe touts the partnership between the Muse visual Web design program and its companion Web hosting service, Business Catalyst,

as especially valuable for designers.

Despite the benefits of Creative Cloud, some people won't need it. If you use one program exclusively, and you're not interested in social networking, training, or other community services, the traditional license and boxed software should suffice.

On the Horizon

Creative Community, a social networking service Adobe is coordinating for the cloud service, is in the planning stages. "You will be able to publish to a creative community where creative pros can view and comment on your work," says Morris. "Other designers can see your work and follow you, just like with social networks."

Adobe also plans a video-training module to help users learn new skills.

More Than Software The release of Adobe Creative Suite 6 will be significant, but teaming up with Creative Cloud offers a whole new dimension to the design industry.

What Should You Do?

There's no single way to judge whether Adobe's Creative Cloud will be your best option. However, Adobe is offering compelling incentives to encourage people to consider the option. Linking the entire Creative Suite to the cloud, and making updates perpetually available, sounds attractive, especially because that strategy is combined with a slate of other useful products. A Creative Cloud subscription offers access to any included program at any time, at no extra charge.

Adobe is also counting on the social networking and training components to be a big draw. Says Morris, "Creative Cloud is the creative hub where you get tools, services, and inspiration—and everything is tied together."

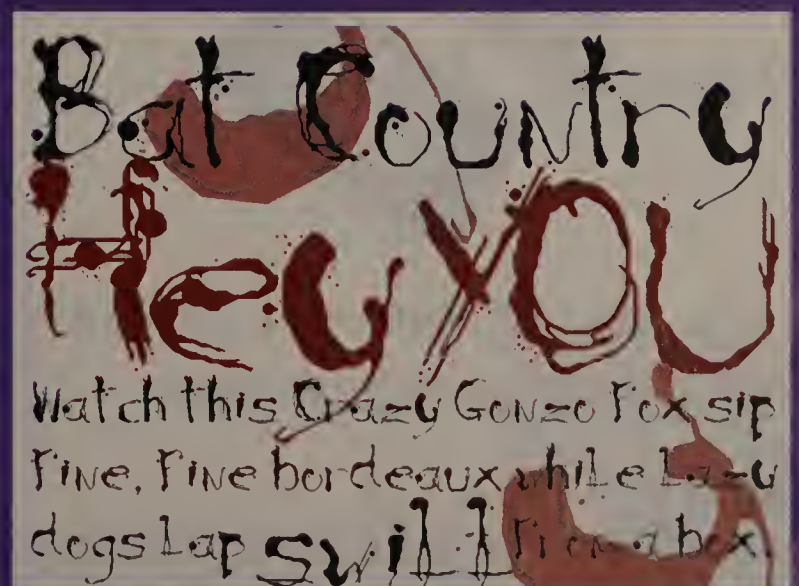


BAT COUNTRY FONT MAKES AN EXTREME STATEMENT

Communication can get quite dull when it's confined to the civilized serif and sans serif crowd. Bored? Lift a pint to Bat Country (free), typographer Laurie Jackson's homage to bad boy illustrator Ralph Steadman. This wild, blotchy, ink-streaked TrueType font is extreme, and made for extreme statements. The cover of a Hunter S. Thompson book seems appropriate.

The designer hand-drew all 54 characters while he was a first-year student at the University of the West of England, Bristol. Jackson digitized and finessed the electronic version in Fontstructor, in a process that he describes as "a solid week in underpants in front of a computer." After Jackson gets cleaned up, we'd like to shake his hand for keeping the spontaneity of the original font alive in this vector-based format.

Bat Country looks good at dizzying heights. It lacks numeric and punctuation sets, except for a period and a comma. Below 60 points, Bat Country hits the floor snoring.—KATE GODFREY



Photographing Food? It's as Easy as Pie.

BY LAUREN CRABBE

It seems everyone these days is taking photos of their food and uploading them to Twitter—before they've taken their first bite. While some of these photos offer mouthwatering results, most are a mess, poorly lit and unappetizing. Here's how you can take a good food photo with whatever camera you have on hand.

Camera Settings

Get comfortable taking photos outside auto mode. First, turn off the flash. Second, practice manual focusing so that the target food item—say, your cupcake—is the center of attention. Third, master the manual exposure control. Aperture priority is the preferred option for photographing

food. Most cameras have automatic macro settings.

Get the Right App

If you're using an iPhone, find an app that will let you shoot and edit photos without applying retro or lo-fi filters, such as Inventive's \$2 Camera+ (campl.us). After you take the photo of your mom's spaghetti, add the preset Food Scene option to warm up the colors and make the food look more appetizing. The Depth Of Field option blurs out the plate's distracting edges.

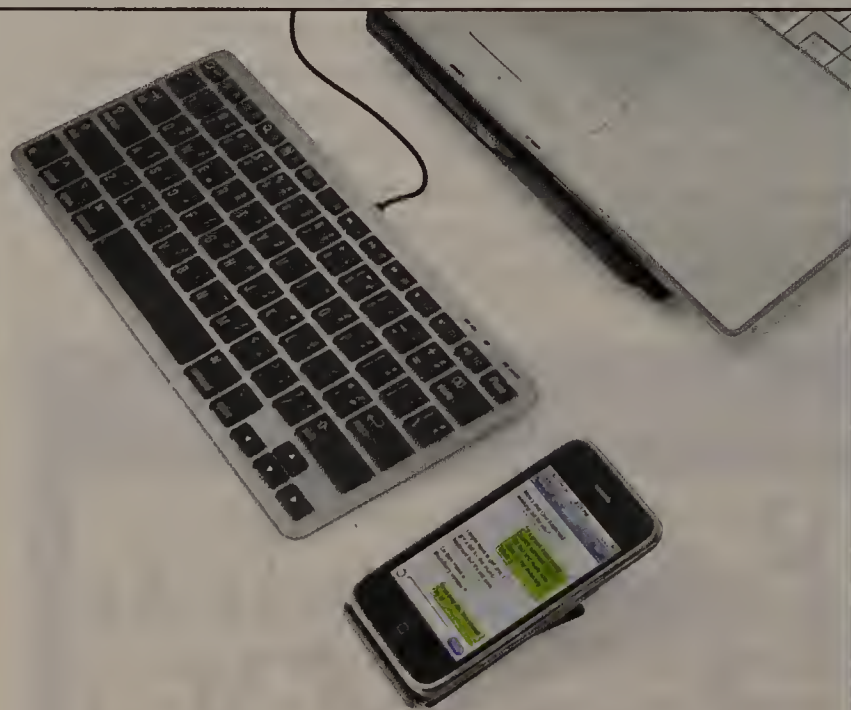
Vuzz's free Snapdish (www.snapdi.sh), an app designed for enhancing food images, brightens your photo. You can then upload it to Snapdish or send it straight to Facebook or Twitter.

Choose Your Lens

A wide-angle lens lets you include more of the table, but can also add unwanted distractions. A longer lens can get a tight shot with a shallow depth of field, but might not be practical for a quick pic in a restaurant. A macro lens gets in close enough to capture delicious details. Specialty lenses like tilt-shift and telephoto make photos stand out.

Style and Perspective

Decide on the best composition for the plate. If the layout of items is interesting, go for an overhead shot, but if it's stacked food—like a sandwich—a side shot shows off your meal better. To style a photo more energetically, try shooting a fork playfully stabbing pasta rather



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than a half-eaten plate of ravioli. If you're preparing food specifically for a photo shoot, cook the veggies less so they retain their color, thoughtfully shape the mound of rice, and plate your food with the entire scene in mind. A glass of wine and a few crumbs make it look more realistic.

Manipulate Lighting

If you are taking photos at home—say, at a family meal—try these quick steps to attain natural-looking, appealing shots. Start by using an available window to cast light on your dish of food. Then use mirrors or white paper to reflect that light back onto the subject for even, consistent light color.

A Pinch of Editing

Even if you're not a photo-app pro, you can keep whites clean and bright with manual editing tools. In iPhoto, click the Adjust button at the bottom of the



Cut the Flash Try to use natural light instead of flash when documenting your meal for posterity (or Twitter). Natural illumination makes food look more appealing.

editing window. There, you can manually over- or underexpose your photo or change the color temperature.

Lauren Crabbe is a San Francisco-based photojournalist.

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How to Create Video GIFs for Social Media

BY CHRIS MCVEIGH

Animated GIFs have been around for almost two decades, allowing users to create and share simple animations online. These days people have taken to converting short video clips into animated GIFs for posting to blogs and social networking sites.

To create a video GIF on your Mac, you can upload a video clip to Gifninja (www.gifninja.com) or manually assemble an animation using Adobe Photoshop. But the most efficient way is with GIFBrewery from Hello, Resolven (\$3; macworld.com/7736). Here's how.

Step 1: Pick a Video Clip

Choose an existing video file on your Mac, or make a video with your iPhone, iPad, or digital camera. Then find a 2-to-5 second segment to convert to GIF. GIFBrewery only supports video files that Apple's QuickTime can play, but you can expand the number of playable formats by installing free QuickTime plug-ins, such as Softonic's Perian and Telestream's Flip4Mac WMV, on your Mac.

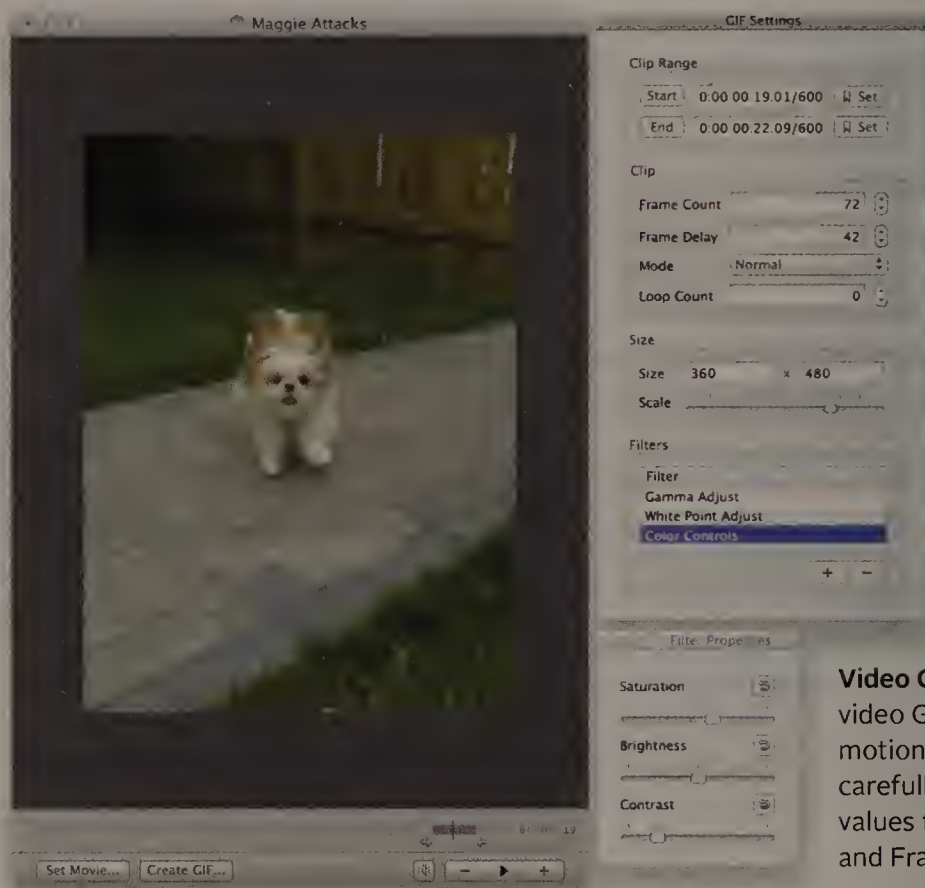
Step 2: Create Your Video GIF

Open GIFBrewery and drag your video file into the empty video window.

Set Clip Range Below the video window, there's a video scrubber with arrows defining the portion of the video to convert. Move the scrubber control (the thin black line) to the start of the desired segment and choose GIF ► Set Current Frame As Start Of GIF. Repeat this process for the end, choosing GIF ► Set Current Frame As End Of GIF. Make adjustments with the arrow keys on your keyboard.

FRAME DELAY GUIDE

DURATION (SECONDS)	FRAME RATE PER SECOND	FRAME COUNT	FRAME DELAY
3	30	90	33
3	24	72	42
2	15	30	67
4	12	48	83



The exact timing for the start and end appear under Clip Range in the GIF Settings window. Tweak these times to full-second intervals, if possible. You can't edit the numbers directly, so tug the arrow controls in the scrubber to adjust times.

Set Frame Count and Delay Under Clip, you see settings for Frame Count (the total number of frames) and Frame Delay (how long a single frame is displayed). The optimal frame count depends on the video's duration and frame rate. (To find the frame rate, open the video in QuickTime Player and choose Window ► Show Movie Inspector.) If the frame rate is 24 frames per second (fps) and you choose a 3-second segment,

the ideal frame count is 72 (24 times 3). The optimal frame delay depends on the frame rate and is based on this formula: $1 \div x * 1000$, where x is

the fps rate (see "Frame Delay Guide").

The Mode option lets you generate the clip in Normal, Reverse, and Palindrome (forward and backward), all of which loop endlessly. You'll likely leave this setting at Normal. Loop Count lets you control how many times the GIF repeats.

Set the Size Start with a size of 160 by 120, and then experiment.

Add a Filter Brighten, color-correct, or stylize your video GIF with one of GIFBrewery's filters.

Create Your GIF After you've configured these settings, click Create GIF. The app generates and previews the animation. Then click Save.

Step 3: Share Your GIF

The best part of creating video GIFs is sharing them. The best viewer is a Web browser, so share them via your blog, your personal website, or Google+.

Chris McVeigh is an author, illustrator, and toy photographer, and a frequent contributor to Macworld.

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REVIEWS

Hardware, Software, and Accessories
for Your Creative Endeavors

HARDWARE

Apogee Mic ▸

The Apogee Mic is a diminutive microphone that's compatible with both computers and iOS devices. While it's both portable and flexible, the Mic's tradeoff is sound that's good for many—but not all—portable recording situations. The Mic is solidly built and attractive. It supports 24-bit, 44.1/48kHz audio and can easily fit in a pocket. Its recording quality can be quite good for capturing acoustic instruments, if you're careful about its placement. Where the Mic came up lacking was with voice—specifically spoken voice. It produces very clean results, but it lacks bottom end, and it was impossible to get a DJ-style baritone timbre out of this microphone. The Mic produces far better results than the microphones built into Apple's iOS devices, and its native support for those devices, plus its ability to also record solid audio on a computer, make it a very attractive option. For general-purpose voice and instrument recording, the Apogee Mic is well worth your consideration, particularly for enhancing the portable recording studio that resides in your iPhone 4, iPhone 4S, or iPad.

★★★★; \$199; Apogee Electronics;
www.apogeedigital.com



Canon PowerShot Elph 520 HS ▸

Pocket megazoom cameras have been around for a few years, but the Canon PowerShot Elph 520 HS is among the smallest and simplest. Rather than cramming more megapixels



into a tiny sensor, this model keeps the pixel count relatively low and jacks up the optical zoom to 12X (28–336mm). This tiny camera can fit comfortably in a shirt or pants pocket; at just 0.76 inch deep, it's the size of a deck of playing cards. Regrettably, the PowerShot Elph 520 HS is a disappointing performer. All the photos looked a bit soft, and the camera will leave many owners wanting bigger buttons, better battery life, and better controls for fine-tuning. For casual shooters who just want as much optical zoom as possible in a pocket camera, it's a good option.

★★★½; \$280; Canon; www.usa.canon.com

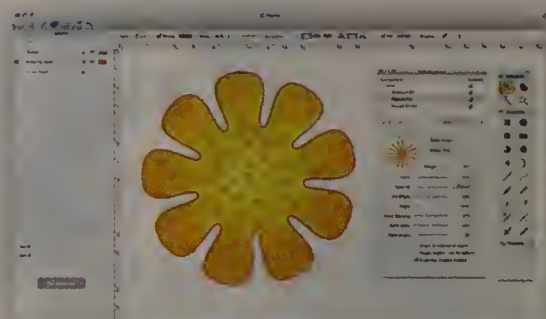


Sony Bloggie Live ▴

Sony built the Bloggie Live with one-upping smartphones in mind: According to the company, the product's video capabilities were developed specifically to outshine those in Apple's iPhone 4S and Samsung's Galaxy S II phones, and the Bloggie Live is also the first pocket camcorder on the market to offer live streaming via Wi-Fi and peer-to-peer sharing with smartphones and tablets. It shoots 1080p video, takes 12-megapixel photos, and sports a slick design. The Sony Bloggie Live is the most versatile pocket camcorder we've tested in terms of wireless streaming, peer-to-peer sharing, and still-image resolution. Admittedly, it lacks a couple of useful features such as a mic-in port, a dedicated toggle for moving between macro and landscape, and removable storage. The Bloggie Live is also a very good video performer. Outside its live-streaming mode, though, it didn't produce mind-bogglingly superior video

in comparison with the top smartphones it was built to compete against. In live-streaming mode, the Bloggie Live offers more benefits than its smartphone competitors, including sharper video and the option of saving the streaming footage to its hard drive as a high-definition 1080p clip. Sony's Bloggie Live is a solid option, with wireless sharing features you won't find in other models.

★★★★; \$249; Sony; www.sony.com



SOFTWARE

Artboard 1.4 ▴

Mapdiva's Artboard positions itself as a vector drawing app for novices, and to that end it does a good job of making the often confusing concept of vector illustration more palatable to new users. It also handles some tasks with such finesse that pros will want to take a look, too. Unfortunately, Artboard has some significant quirks. For example, when you're laying down a line, the Undo command removes the entire line rather than the most recently placed anchor point and combining shapes using the Union/Intersect function yields an uneditable shape. Instead of maintaining the minimal anchor points of the original shapes, the new shape has thousands of anchor points along any curved line—a deal-breaker for most illustrators. Though Artboard is a very promising creative app, these quirks bog it down. Nonetheless, it's a great starting point for novices trying their hand at vector illustration.

★★★★½; \$26; Mapdiva; www.mapdiva.com



Inspire Pro

For painting on the iPad, the interface of KiwiPixel's Inspire Pro is generally easy to understand and use. The gallery area greets you at launch with impressive examples of what you can do with the software. A row of buttons at the bottom allows you to create new canvases, as well as export, duplicate, rename, delete, and share your paintings, and provides help and tips for those new to the app. Inspire is impressively swift. Brushstrokes render fast, and canvas zoom and navigation is super-responsive. Inspire Pro has a small selection of brushes, but it offers some good options for customizing rotation and virtual pressure to create subtly different effects, and it has a great color-blending system. Inspire Pro may be a letdown, as it lacks basic features such as layers. But if you come from a traditional painting background and are new to iPad art, this app's workflow might be just what you want.

; \$8; KiwiPixel; www.kiwapixel.com

Scribbee



When you're working on a long-term or collaborative multimedia project, it helps to be able to take notes directly on your videos and images. DFTi's Scribbee for both the iPhone and the iPad makes this possible—users can annotate their still images and videos with text, voice recordings, and finger-drawn sketches. The app also allows you to print, email, and collaboratively share finished and organized notes, as well as play videos via AirPlay to an HDTV connected to an Apple TV. If you have an image on your iPhone that you want to mark up and

Top Products

YOUR GUIDE TO THE BEST HARDWARE WE'VE TESTED



CAMCORDERES

High Definition

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE ^A	TYPE	FIND CODE ^B
HMX-Q10UN www.samsung.com		\$179	Full HD	7617
Vixia HF M40 (pictured) www.canon.com		\$500	Full HD	7477




DIGITAL CAMERAS

Point-and-Shoot

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE ^A	TYPE	FIND CODE ^B
Coolpix S9100 (pictured) www.nikon.com		\$145	12-megapixel	7300
PowerShot S9S www.canon.com		\$365	10-megapixel	6804



DIGITAL CAMERAS

SLR

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE ^A	TYPE	FIND CODE ^B
Alpha SLT-ASS www.sonymstyle.com		\$619	16.2-megapixel	6780
D7000 www.nikon.com		\$1199	18-megapixel	7618
EOS Rebel T3i (pictured) www.canon.com		\$750	18-megapixel	7190



DVD BURNERS

Desktop and Portable

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE ^A	TYPE	FIND CODE ^B
d2 DVD±RW w/LightScribe www.lacie.com		\$87	desktop	3900
MediaStation 8X External Blu-ray Writer (pictured) www.buffalotech.com		\$149	Blu-ray	5344

PRINTERS

Inkjet

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE ^A	TYPE	FIND CODE ^B
Pixma iP4920 (pictured) www.canon.com		\$77	snapshot, photo	7478
Stylus Photo R2000 www.epson.com		\$349	photo	7584

^A All prices are the best current prices taken from a PriceGrabber survey of retailers at press time. ^B In a browser's address field, typing a find code after macworld.com/ takes you to a product's review or overview.

email to a colleague, this app does the job. When it comes to video annotation, though, Scribbee irritatingly doesn't allow you to access any of the videos already on your mobile device. For a

dollar, it might be worth a try. The app shows promise for office-based Wi-Fi collaboration, but its rough edges need smoothing out.

; \$1; DFTi; www.scribbee.com

HELP DESK

Answering Your Questions and Sharing Your Tips about Getting the Most from Your Mac

Mac OS X Hints

The insider tips you won't get from Apple

BY KIRK MCELHEARN

Use the Dark-Linen Pattern on the Desktop

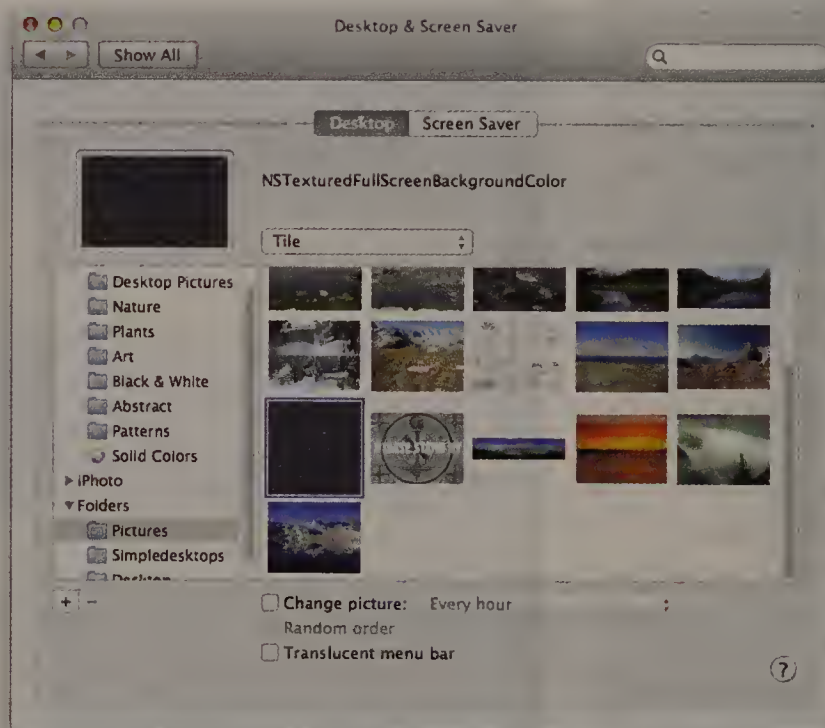
If you've been using OS X Lion, you've no doubt seen the dark-linen pattern that Apple uses as a background for the login screen. The same pattern pops up in iOS 5, too. If you like that look and would like to use it as your everyday desktop background, there's a way to make that so.

In the Finder, choose Go ► Go To Folder, and enter `/System/Library/Frameworks/AppKit.framework/Versions/C/Resources/`. In that folder, look for the file that's named `NSTexturedFullScreenBackgroundColor.png`. Copy this file (select it and press ⌘-C), and then go to your Pictures folder and press ⌘-V to make a copy of it there.

Next, Control-click (or right-click) on the desktop and choose Change Desktop Background. In the Desktop & Screen Saver preference pane that appears, scroll down to Pictures in the Folders list on the left, and then select the linen pattern from the window on the right. Choose Tile from the menu above the image well, and your desktop should take on that cool linen look.

Have a Hint to Share?

Navigate to MacOSXHints.com to submit it. This month's tips were submitted by Ric Getter, Adi Himpson, David Nitzsche-Bell, and anonymous contributors. Each month, the author of our favorite tip is eligible to receive a Help Desk mug.



Dark-Linen Desktop If you like the dark-linen pattern that OS X Lion uses as a backdrop for its login screen, you can use it as your desktop background, too; finding the right graphics file does take some digging, though.

Assign Finder Labels via Drag and Drop

Many of us use Finder labels to mark icons and files, making them easier to differentiate. The Finder provides several well-known tools for assigning labels to files: the File menu, the Action menu on the Finder toolbar, and the Finder's contextual menu. But a *Mac OS X Hints* reader points out another way that isn't so well known.

First, sort your files by label; to do so, click the Arrange button at the top of the Finder toolbar, and then select Label from the list. (If you don't see that button, choose View ► Customize Toolbar and add it.)

If you haven't yet assigned labels to any files in the current directory, they'll all appear in a single No Label category. For this trick to work, you need to create a section for the label(s) you want to apply; to do that, you need to assign that label to at least one file. So, for example,

if you want to apply the Red label to a bunch of files, at least one file or folder must already be labeled Red.

To add a label to a file that's in the No Label section, drag it from there into one of the sections that's labeled with a color; that applies the label color immediately to the file. Similarly, you can remove a label by dragging a file or folder from one of the colored sections into the No Label category.

If you're in List, Column, or Cover Flow view, you need to drag the file onto the label name at the top of its section. In Column view, the file's color changes, but it doesn't immediately move to the new section; if you navigate to another folder, and then back to the original, the file should appear in the correct section.

Check Spelling from the Keyboard

While I like OS X's built-in spelling-check tools, I also find it annoying that

they require using a mouse—first to click on the misspelled word, and then again to choose the correct spelling. But you can actually use the keyboard to correct spelling errors in programs that rely on Apple’s systemwide spelling checker; those programs include TextEdit, Mail, and iChat (or Messages).

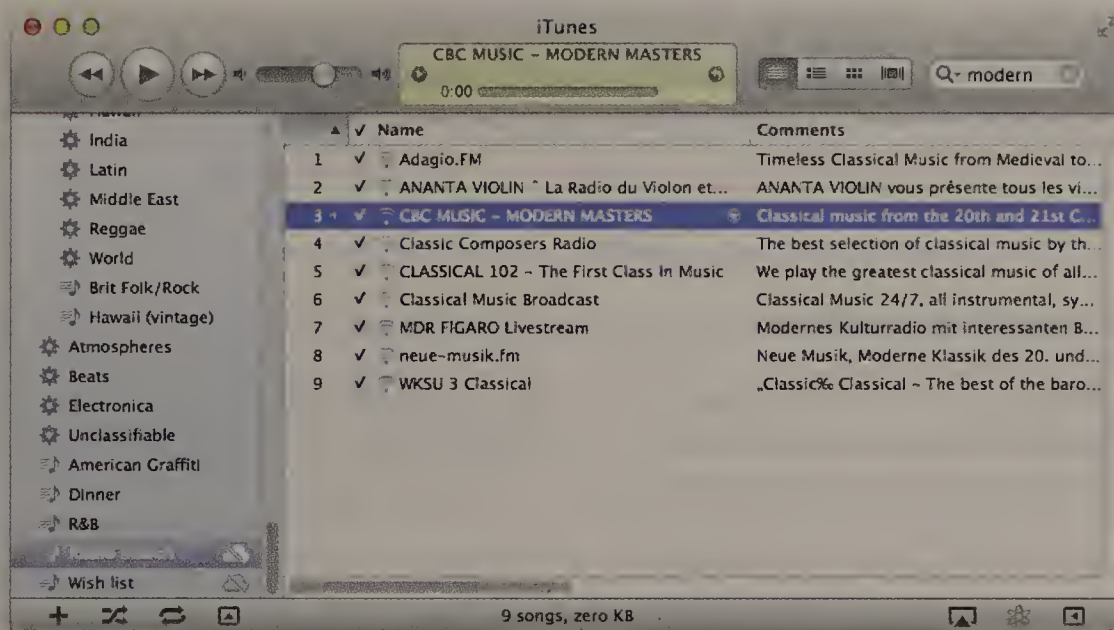
For the trick to work, you must first enable two options in each program’s Edit ► Spelling And Grammar menu: Check Spelling While Typing (the *While Typing* part may be in a submenu) and Correct Spelling Automatically.

That done, when you misspell a word, press the spacebar to insert a space after it, and then use the left arrow on your keyboard to move the cursor back so it’s immediately after the misspelled word’s last letter. If you wait a second, a list of suggested spellings pops up. Using the up and down arrow keys, select the spelling you want from the list, and then press Return. The correct spelling replaces the misspelled word. If you want to dismiss the pop-up, press the Escape key.

While this keyboard navigation doesn’t work in all programs—you can’t use it in Microsoft Office apps, for example—you may find that it works in many of the apps you use regularly.

Rip Audio from Video in iTunes

Do you have video files that you’d like to have in audio form—say, a music video you bought from the iTunes Store that



Search for iTunes Radio Normally, you can’t search for stations in the iTunes Radio section, but you *can* search for them if you drag them into a playlist.

you want to listen to on your iPod? Turns out there’s a nice hidden feature in iTunes that lets you do just that. You can use it to grab audio from any video file as an iTunes track.

If you select a video in your iTunes library—be it a music video, a TV show, or something else—and then look in the Advanced menu, you’ll see that the Create AAC Version menu command is dimmed. (The format might be MP3 or Apple Lossless, depending on your import settings.) But if you press the Option key, this menu item changes to Convert To AAC (or, again, MP3 or Apple Lossless, depending on your settings). Select that command, and iTunes extracts the audio from the video.

Of course, you can rip audio tracks from DVDs, using the free HandBrake app as an intermediary (<http://www.sixbit.com/a/1146789>). But if you already have the videos, you can get their audio with iTunes using this menu item, as long as the video is in an iTunes-compatible format (.mov or

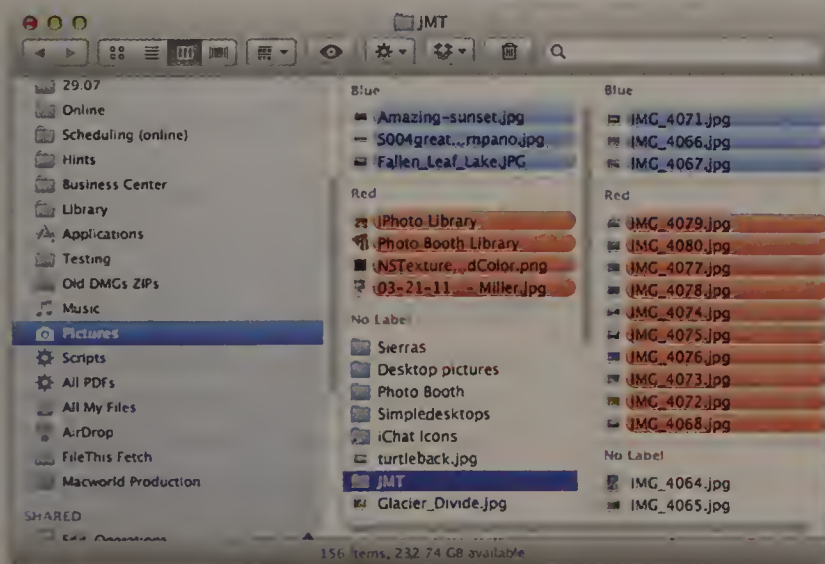
.mp4). Depending on what you want to do with this audio, you may want to switch from your default conversion settings to Apple Lossless. Just remember that the audio quality will be no better than the original video’s.

Search for Radio Stations in iTunes

If you use iTunes radio stations, you may have noticed that you can’t search in the Radio list; the search field is dimmed. But you *can* search for stations if you put them in a playlist.

To do this, create a new playlist, and then click on Radio in the iTunes source list. (If you don’t see it, choose iTunes ► Preferences, click on General, and then check Radio in the Show section.) Click on a disclosure triangle to show the radio stations in a genre, such as Alternative, Blues, or Classical. You can either choose specific radio stations and drag them to your playlist, or, if you want, select all the radio stations in a genre and drag them to the playlist. (You can’t drag the genre name to the playlist, though.) You can then search for a specific station within that playlist.

Also, you should display the Comments column in iTunes: Select your station playlist, choose View Options, and then select Comments. Once you’ve done this, your search looks not only at the names of the stations, but also at their descriptions.



Drag-and-Drop Labels Once you’ve applied a label to a file, you can apply it to others by dragging them into that label’s section.

Mac 911

Solutions to your most vexing Mac problems

BY CHRISTOPHER BREEN

Deal with Spam When Mail Won't

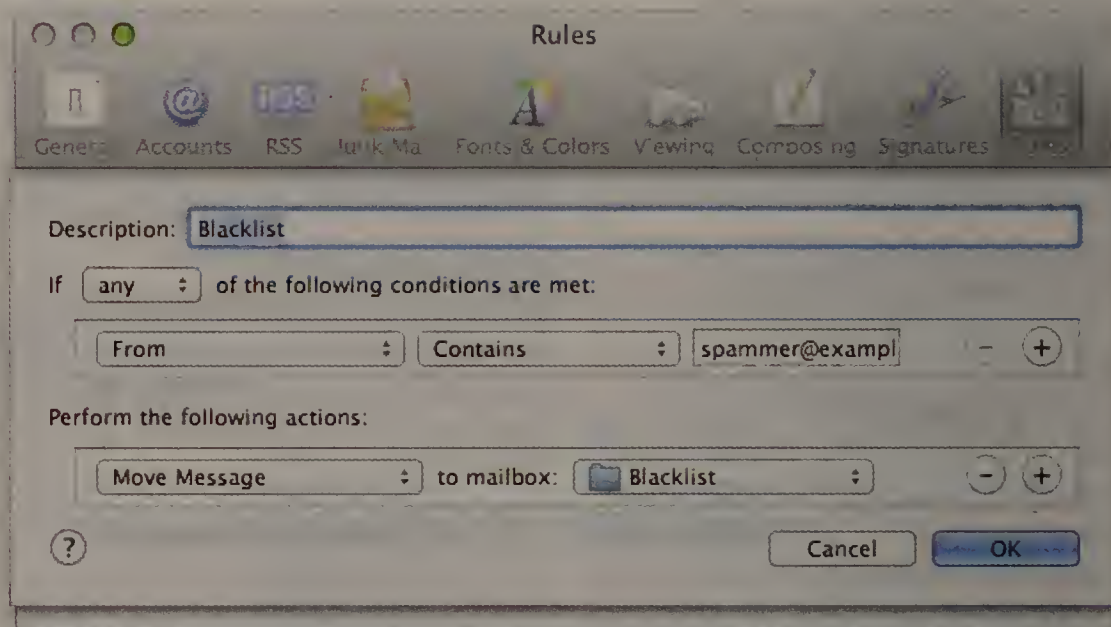
Q: I entered my iCloud email address on a site that was nothing but a spam generator. I've marked messages from this site as junk, but I continue getting spam. I'd like to create a blacklist and whitelist in Mail but can't find a way to do it.

Dave Griep

A: Although Mail has no specific feature for creating blacklists and whitelists, you can create them with Mail's rules. Here's how.

On your Mac, launch Mail, click the plus-sign button (+) at the bottom left corner of the Mail window, and choose Add Mailbox from the menu that appears. In the resulting New Mailbox sheet, choose iCloud from the Location pop-up menu and enter a name such as 'Blacklist' in the Name field. Follow the same procedure if you'd like to create a Whitelist folder. Any folders you create within your iCloud account will also be available on your iOS devices and on the iCloud website.

Now open Mail's preferences and click on the Rules tab. Click the Add Rule button and configure one rule to read: If From Contains *spammeraddresses* Move Message To Mailbox Blacklist (where *spammeraddresses* contains any address you've associated with this craft). Name your rule 'Blacklist' and click OK (see "Naughty List"). From this point on, messages from this source will be moved to the Blacklist folder.



Naughty List Add a list of unwanted addresses to a Mail rule to blacklist those senders.

As for a whitelist, you can simply let your Blacklist rule and Mail's junk filtering deal with the bad stuff and continue to pull good messages into your inbox. If you deeply desire a whitelist, you can create a rule that looks for specific good addresses and moves messages from them to a Whitelist folder.

The other option is to forget about creating rules and lists, and instead get an effective antispam utility. And when I say *effective*, I do mean C-Command Software's \$30 SpamSieve (c-command.com/spamsieve). I've relied on SpamSieve for years, as have many of my colleagues. It really is the best way to deal with this crud.

Eyes on Your Opponent

Q: I would like to play a game with my grandson while I am communicating with him via iChat or FaceTime. Is this possible?

Pat Rooney

A: On the Mac, that's generally possible. Just leave the FaceTime or iChat window open with your video

chat running, and you should be able to see and hear each other. Where you'll have difficulty is with games that take over the entire screen. In such cases you'll lose the video window.

Another option is to take advantage of FaceTime on other devices you might own. If you each have an iOS device with a camera, you could use FaceTime on those devices to see each other.

Use a PC Drive with a Mac

Q: I need to get files off my PC and its external USB hard drive and onto my Mac. Do I have to put everything on a thumb drive and transfer it over that way?

Margo Bangert

A: Heavens, no. Transferring a lot of data via thumb drive would be tedious in the extreme. All you have to do is copy your files from your PC's internal hard drive to the external hard drive attached to it. Next, you unmount the drive on the PC and jack it into your Mac's USB port. The drive will mount, and you can then copy the data from it to the Mac. This is possible because



Have a Problem?

Go to the Mac 911 forum (macworld.com/2467) to ask about your misbehaving Macs and applications.

Macs are able to mount drives formatted for PCs.

Versions and Auto Save Explained

Q ■ I understand that I can save multiple versions of files I create in Lion's TextEdit. Are the versions created automatically or do I have to save a version? And if I transfer one of these documents to another Mac, will I be able to browse its versions on that Mac?

Ray Allan

A ■ Every time you open a document, Lion's Auto Save feature saves the current version of that document. Additionally, it saves a version every hour (provided that the host application is open, of course). You can create additional versions by pressing ⌘-S or choosing Save A Version from the File menu.

As for transferring documents, unfortunately you can't move files to another Mac and expect their versions to travel along with them. Versions are not embedded in the files. Rather, they're stored in a hidden directory called .DocumentRevisions-V100 that resides at the root level of your hard drive. The application then references the versions in this folder when called upon to do so. Because versions of your document are missing on the Mac you've copied the document to, no versions are available.

You needn't worry that this hidden folder will become bloated with dozens of fat files. Lion saves only the changes made to a document rather than multiple versions of the entire document.

Cure for an Incomplete iOS Update

Q ■ I have an iPhone, and I installed the latest version of iOS 5. I did this, however, without plugging the phone into a power outlet. Now my iPhone won't turn on unless I plug it into my computer and mount it in iTunes. Is there any way to get my phone to turn on without my computer?

Jared Murray

Bugs & Fixes BY TED LANDAU



Troubleshoot Messages

Beta on a Mac You send a message to a friend from your iPhone (running iOS 5), but it never makes it to your Mac version of Messages. There are several potential fixes. First make sure that you have a single entry for your friend in your Address Book and Contacts databases. Assuming you have a phone number and an email address for this person, make sure that both are listed in the same entry. Your iPhone looks first for a phone number to identify the person, while your Mac looks for an email address. If one of these items is missing from the entry, or if they are in separate entries, the iOS and Mac versions of the software may not coordinate.

Second, make sure that you have set a Caller ID on your iPhone. Go to Settings ► Messages, enable iMessage, and tap the Received At item. At the top of the screen that appears, if you have not already done so, sign in with your Apple ID—where it says “Use your Apple ID for iMessage.”

You should now have two message destinations listed: your phone number and your Apple ID email address. Next, tap the Caller ID item at the bottom of the display. From the screen that appears, select your email address for Caller ID. This should be the same Apple ID address that you use for messages in the Messages beta on your Mac. If so, iMessages sent from an iPhone should now show up in the Messages beta on the Mac.

Even after doing all of this, you may still have some problems, such as when a person sends a message from their iPhone to your iPhone using your phone number as the ID. Such messages will sync successfully between the two iPhones, but will likely not make it to your Mac.

A ■ Your iPhone probably wasn't fully charged when you updated, and during the update its battery ran out of juice, leaving you with an incomplete installation. This is why it's important to



Solve an AirPlay Conflict

Reflection is a new Mac application that allows you to mirror an iPhone or iPad to your Mac wirelessly. The software works via Apple's AirPlay and is compatible only with an iPhone 4S or a second- or third-generation iPad. Although there are still a few “version 1.0” kinks to be worked out, it has performed well in my testing.

I did, however, face one significant obstacle when I first tried to use Reflection. After selecting my Mac from the AirPlay menu on my iPad, nothing happened because I was running another app on my Mac that was already connecting via AirPlay: the \$15 AirServer. The AirServer app was in my Login Items list, so it automatically launched at startup. Apparently, this was blocking Reflection from connecting via AirPlay. The solution seemed simple enough: quit AirServer. Doing so turned out to be not so simple, as AirServer is a windowless, menu-less app with no Quit command.

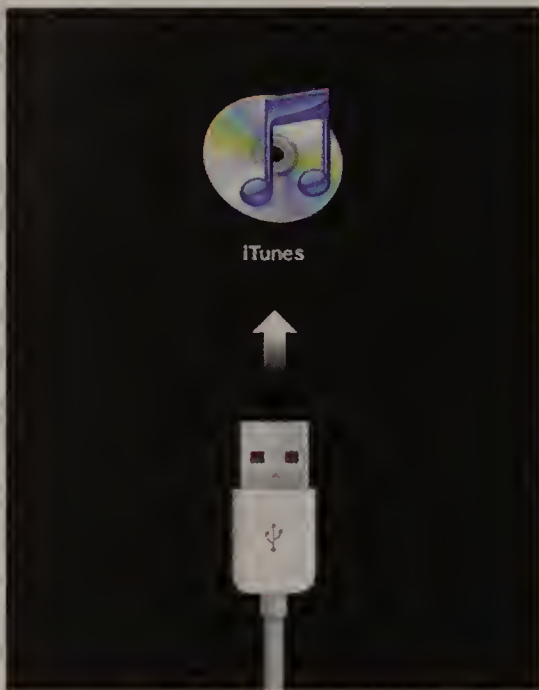
One solution is to remove AirServer from your Login Items list and log in to your account again. Alternatively, assuming you no longer care to use the app, you can uninstall it via a script provided on AirServer's website. I chose the latter option. After that, Reflection worked exactly as expected.

If you've already encountered this problem because you were switching from AirServer to Reflection simply to get the mirroring option, you can dispense with Reflection, as AirServer now supports mirroring.

Senior Contributor **Ted Landau** is the founder of MacFixIt (www.macfixit.com). Share your problems at bugs@macworld.com or on Macworld.com's Mac 911 forum.

plug your iOS devices into a power outlet or powered USB port before performing an OS update.

I suggest that you start over. Plug your iPhone into the computer you



Entering Recovery Recovery mode allows you to restore a stubborn iOS device.

normally sync it with, launch iTunes, select your iPhone's icon in iTunes' Source list, choose the Summary tab in iTunes' main window, and click on

Restore. If there isn't already a copy of the latest version of the iOS on your computer, iTunes downloads it. Once that download is complete, iTunes sets about installing the iOS. When it completes its job, restore your iPhone from the latest backup.

If your iPhone doesn't appear in iTunes, you'll have to place the phone in Recovery mode. To do that, unplug the USB cable from the bottom of your iPhone but leave the cable plugged into your computer. Shut off the iPhone by pressing and holding the On/Off button and sliding the Slide To Power Off slider. Press and hold the Home button while plugging the USB cable into the bottom of the iPhone. Hold the Home button until you see the screen that shows a USB cable and iTunes icon (see "Entering Recovery"). Let go of the Home button.

In iTunes, you should see a message indicating that the iPhone is in Recovery mode. Click OK in this dialog

box and, in iTunes, click the Restore button that begins the restore process. If you find yourself in a situation where you're away from your computer and you have this problem, you can restore it on another computer using these same techniques. You won't have a backup of the stuff that was on your iPhone before, but at least you'll still be able to use it. When you return home, plug it into your computer and allow that computer to update the iPhone with your data and apps.

Tweak Lion's Firewall

Q: I'd like more control over Lion's firewall. Is there a way to manually add a TCP or UDP port?

Jake Tesler

A: As you've noticed, OS X's firewall, while potentially powerful, doesn't provide you with a lot of configuration options. Apple did this

AppleMount.com

NO brackets or clips.

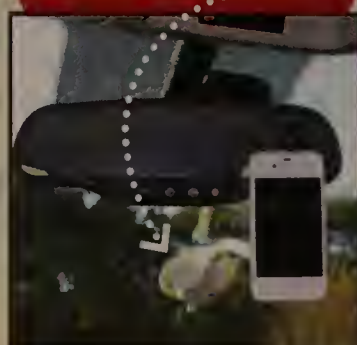
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PATENT PENDING

Let Your iPad Run Naked!

deliberately so that typical users wouldn't do The Bad Thing and render their Macs nearly unusable because of an ill-tweaked firewall.

But as I say, the firewall can be powerful. The trick is getting to the settings you need. Terminal is certainly one avenue, but why bother when there's Hanynet's donate-what-you-can-afford-please IceFloor (www.hanynet.com/icefloor)?

In its primary window, you find simple on and off options for select services including screen sharing, VPN, iTunes sharing, and FTP file transfer. But if you click on the Advanced Options button, you'll reveal a window where you can add custom TCP and UDP ports. You can additionally create a whitelist and blacklist of IP addresses to always allow or always block traffic from particular addresses. If you want to dig even deeper, click the Advanced Filtering button in this window and let your geek flag fly.

ICONS BY PAUL HOWALT

MAC 101

Make More Desktop Elbow Room

Q ■ I keep a lot of files on my desktop, but there's so much room between them that it doesn't take long before they overlap one another. Is there anything I can do to squeeze in these icons a little tighter?

Brad Cramblett

A ■ Yes. Just click on the desktop and press ⌘-J , and a Desktop window appears. Within this window you can change the size of your desktop icons and—perhaps more important in your situation—the size of the desktop grid. To get your icons closer together, make the grid smaller.

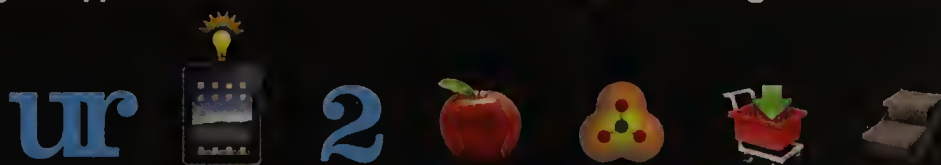
I've found that an icon size of 32 by 32 is large enough that I can discern what an icon is as well as select it with little trouble. I then play with the Grid Spacing slider so that I can see each item's full filename. The default text size of 12 is fine for me, but if you find the text too small, bump up the text size. The idea of positioning the label on the right side gives me a bad case of the jimjams, but that too is an option. Likewise, enabling Show Item Info (which, in the case of desktop items, means you see the number of items in a folder and the amount of free space on a hard drive or volume) is unnatural to me, but you're welcome to give it a try.

Allow me to remind you that placing a lot of items on the desktop can slow down your Mac because the Mac treats any items with custom icons as windows that it must draw.

Your iPhone/iPad Idea to Fruition in 2 Steps

1 Bring your application idea to Zco

2 Zco designs and develops your app



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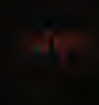
Business

Pico de Botella



Entertainment

NHPR



News

NameCatcher



Social Networking

Kinesio Capture



Sports

TicketDefender



Navigation

Lawn Envy



Lifestyle

AgRacer



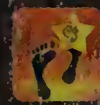
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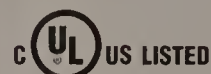
*Current Mac OS X versions are unable to utilize more than 96GB RAM due to an operating system limitation. 128GB can be fully utilized by a 2009-2010 Mac Pro if running Bootcamp with 64-bit versions of Windows XP and later as well as with 64-bit versions of Linux.

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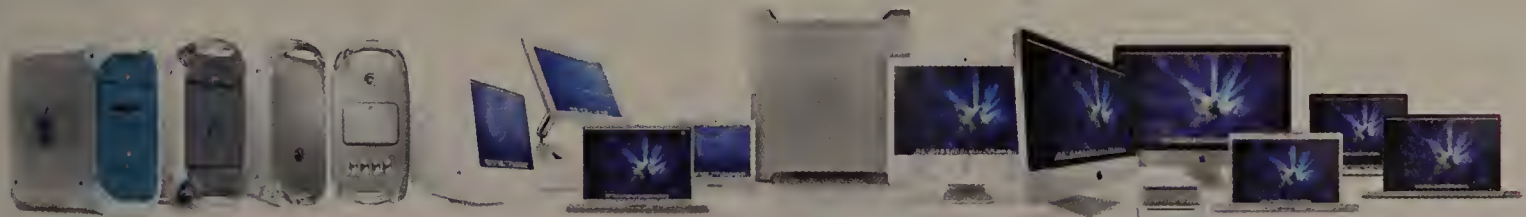
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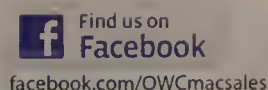


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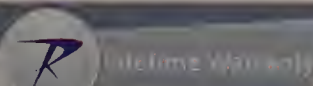


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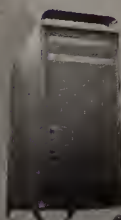
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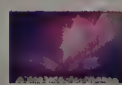
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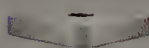
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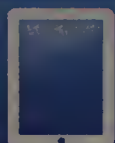
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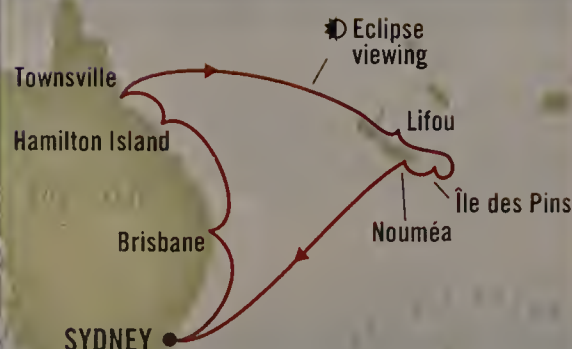
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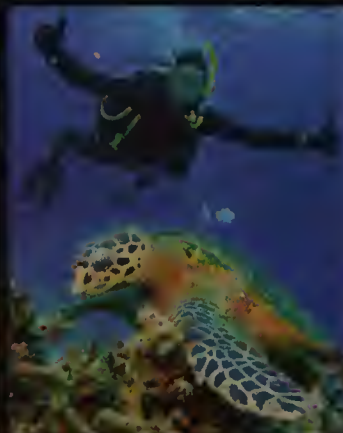
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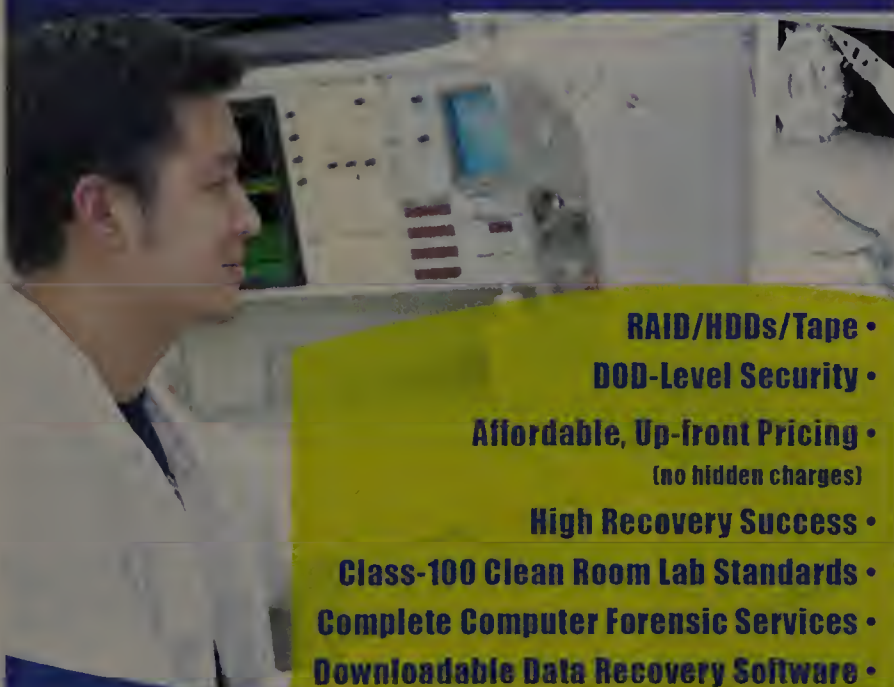
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What I Want in OS X

Mac users—and Apple—should think different about the operating system

As Apple readies OS X Mountain Lion for release, there are still a bunch of things I'd like to see in the editions of OS X that will follow.

Today, OS X is still focused on maintaining multiple windows, each "owned" by a discrete app. That worked fine in the 1980s, when we were lucky to keep three programs running at the same time, and we had barely enough storage for a two-page letter and a desktop note reading "Tuesday: Meet with R at J about the HJH for 80-00."

Back in 1985, Microsoft stumbled bass-ackwards into the correct approach. Windows 1.0 used tiled panels instead of overlapping windows. What if OS X 11 had a separate Easy Mode in which you could always look at a single screen of immediately relevant tiles, adeptly curated by the OS based on its guess of what was important to you at any given point in your day?

For example, right now I'm writing this column in Pages. But it's early in the morning, and editors are still arriving at their offices and (after commending their souls to God) starting to read whatever I sent them overnight. So I've got an eye peeled on my inbox. My friends are also arriving at their offices, so I've got an eye on Messages and my Twitter feed. I'm also dipping into Google to check facts.

Because OS X 11 would keep a profile of my app and document habits, it would know to place a Pages panel smack in the middle of the screen. It would put tiles in the margins displaying as much of Mail, Twitter, Messages, and Safari as I need—but no more. It would be a UI focused on one goal—to help me research and write a column while managing my outside life—as opposed to the "everything or just one thing" approach we have now.

Find a New Way

Many of us have been waiting for a new approach to the Finder for years. We've

been expecting it for so long that it's become like the surprise birthday party that you suspect your friends are throwing for you. You begin the day full of eager excitement. By the middle of the afternoon, you've been ground into a fine dust. It hasn't happened. It was never going to happen. You don't live in a world where such nice things happen. Why do you even bother to have friends, anyway?

Every time I try to locate that file I was working on a few weeks ago, I wonder why we even bother to have a Finder. All businesspeople dream of working their way high enough up the company org chart that they no longer need to know where or how any of the company's data is stored. All they know is, they pick up the phone during lunch and ask someone to put the projected actuals report from last quarter on their desk, and by the time they return to the office, picking baby duck hearts from their teeth, there it is.

Why should the average Mac user expect any less?

Many of us have been waiting for a new approach to the Finder for years.



The Finder experience is still all about "Drill, baby, drill." We click through hierarchies and volumes, searching for a file or a scrap of data that we wish we'd labeled more clearly. Every time, my Mac acts as though it has just met me and has no idea who I am or how I work.

I spend less time on Amazon.com than I do with my Mac overall. And yet that store can accurately predict the next book, album, or movie I want to buy before I can even type **Neil Diamond Erotic Poetry**. Why can't my Mac do the same?

While we're at it, I want my Dock icons to stop bouncing; I want the color Apple logo back in the Apple menu; I want my iPhone to convey all of the alerts that my desktop apps wish me to see; and I want Screen Sharing between my iPad and my iMac to actually work.

Think Irrational

For now, Apple's only showing us OS X 10.8. It's still sprinkling some of the iPad fairy dust over the Mac. To what positive or negative effect? It's too soon to say. But Apple certainly understands the value of incubating a cool new idea inside one product and then setting it free to enhance everything else that has an Apple logo on it.

For me, the most attractive part of OS X 10.8 is that it's another step closer to 10.9, which will then leave us just a breath away from 11.0. A love of round numbers is hardwired into the human operating system. I would like to think that somewhere in some conference room in Cupertino, there's a whiteboard with that number written on it with excited circles drawn around it. And the rest of the space is full of ideas that'll knock everyone on their behinds.

Andy Ihnatko is a tech columnist for the *Chicago Sun-Times* and a senior contributor to *Macworld*.

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